Slave Harem in the Labyrinth of the Other World

001-050

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Chapter 1 - Prologue

Suicide Website.

Of course, people that know, know. It's a site where methods of suicide are recorded and where you can find company to commit suicide together with.

I was one of those lost such a website.

Not because I wanted to kill myself.
Rather I was tempted by death itself.

I simply despaired of this world.

I received simple bullying.
It wasn't something so straightforward. It was the malicious type of ignoring.
In class, at lunch, even on my way home, I was alone.
Because they had already used violence against me directly in elementary school this was any better?

I'm learning kendo and aikido now. I didn't like being bullied so I started during elementary school. I became considerably strong, therefore the guys that used to beat me up left me alone.

They were a miserable bunch.
Even if they were compensating with violence, because they can't win they simply ignore me.

Well, I despised them too, so there was no way we could get along.

Their attitude is similar to how my father is at home.
He used to get violent with me after my mother died, but now he's frightened that I might retaliate and doesn't talk to me anymore.

After all, that's how this world works.
It doesn't matter how much you change your attitude or reputation, in the end power is absolute.
If they're no match for you, they won't face you directly.

Having said that, even if you have power, you can't take the top of this world.

I think this world is rotten to the core.

If I think about it, I don't have any attachment to this world.
I don't have any family to rely on, a lover, or even friends.
Apart from that, I have no other regrets.

My grades aren't particularly good.
Because of the abuse that I received from my father, entering university is impossible.
And I'm poor.

By the way, the priest of a Buddhist temple is teaching children aikido and kendo. But I knew.
The priest just wanted to grope the girls of his liking.
It's those kind of things that show how rotten this world is.

If I were to have one regret, it would be "that".
Honestly, I wanted to graduate from my virginity.
It's sad to die without ever having had this experience.
It's just the kind of thing a high school boy thinks about.

Also, committing suicide is actually pretty scary after all.
I hate pain and scary things.

If a person is determined to die, they can do anything.
I was considerably devoted to kendo and aikido.
I'm considerably powerful, if I do say so myself.
I think I'd be lying if I had said that I the felt that the situation would improve in some way.

While looking around the site trying to determine wither I had the determination to kill myself or not, "Before you decide to commit suicide" flashed before my eyes.

Yeah. This, that's right.
For a healthy boy, a still-sophomore-in-high-school, suicide wasn't recommended.
I wanted something like this.

I'm still too afraid to die.
For now, I clicked on the advertisement.

……What the?

I who had moved to the page, murmured.

The contents read:
If this world is too difficult to live, then live in another.
Seriously?

An appropriate world for you to choose from, thus, there are several selections that can be made.

A world where science and technology are developed, a world dominated by pirates, a medieval world, a world of swords and magic…

You're saying there's a world with magic?
I picked that and advanced to a human only world, a human, elf, and dwarf world, a human and demi-human world along with a myriad of other choices.

Understood.

This is probably the start of a net game.
Well it was an advertisement link after all.

I don't understand why the advertisement targets candidates for suicide, but I didn't think about that and moved on.
It might be fine as just a net game.
At the very least, it's much more healthy that thinking about suicide.
Unexpectedly, because so many think that, that they may just click on the advertisement.

I only played net games a few times since I started high school.
Since I didn't have any friends I only played solo.

So that's why. I didn't fit in, so I quit trying to play those games.
Even still, it was pretty fun.
I didn't especially dislike it at all.

Moving to the next page, they made me choose from several

cultures and countries.

It would be more fun if various things happened?
If I got tired there were always other countries to go to.

The next page was, frequency of war.
A world where countries fought aggressively or a friendly world.

In net games, when you joined a guild there were guild wars.
But that has nothing to do with a solo player like me.
I chose from the 4 worlds, the one that was most inclined toward friendliness.

After that, a dungeon type or field type?
It's pretty hard to choose between the two.
We'll have both.

It was puzzling that you only got to choose a male in uniform and didn't get to customize your outfit, lastly, there was something that you would be recommended, I think.

But, there certainly were a lot of choices.
They even made you choose the language used.

There isn't even any Japanese option
What is Brahim?

I just left it as default because I didn't understand what it meant.

After becoming bored with so many choices, and then there was a page with bonus points.

Oh!
It looks more like a game.

I clicked sever times, the numerical values changed.
I'm pretty particular when it comes to this kind of stuff.
I keep at it until I'm satisfied with my numbers.

Aikido is something I love, having a style that was something I was absorbed into.
Repeating the same style over many time. That, in a way, was fun.

The bonus points were basically considerably low it seems.
Many were between 10-20, as well as a lot of single digit ones too.
What was the highest number?

Oops, 62.
Was that high? Maybe it can go higher, it was a questionable number.

I repeated it again.
There were some times 40's and an occasional 50.
I aimed to get an even higher number.

71.
The numerical number turned green.
Is that a passing number?

But the very bottom column had only a 1.
If 75 was a passing number, I want to aim a little higher and see if I can get over 79.

I chose to do it again.

However, 70 didn't appear, only 60 appeared.
Did I fail?
While thinking that, I clicked again.
Will I have to settle for 60?

While in the middle of thinking at that moment I clicked as the number 8 passed in front of me.
That's 80 just now?
It was 80 right?

It had stopped on the number 19.

Guaa. Crap!

I'll just leave it to nature and do it again.

Sigh. It can't be helped.
I'm going to turn back and click again.
Though I saw 60 several times, once you see 80, you can't really stop on a 60.

How much time had passed?
After that, 70 didn't come up.
I kept clicking reluctantly.
Although I'm tired of waiting for a high number, I continued.

To prevent what I did by mistake, I confirm the number I clicked. After confirming I do it again,

Redo. Confirm. Redo. Confirm. Redo.

Why am I doing this in the first place?
Isn't a single bonus point good?
Although I thought that, I continued clicking.

If it was going to be like this, stubbornness.
Click again, confirm the numerical value, click again.
At length I continued to click.
Click. Click. Click.
Click. Click. Click.

99.

That number shines like it was gold.
Finally, It's finally here.

For this to come out, how long did it take?
This number finally came out.
There might be 3 digit numbers above this, but this might be the top number.

99.
When I see that number, I'm flooded with satisfaction.
99.

After fighting for such a long time, I finally reached it.
Like my memories frantically being squeezed out
Every day of hardship, endurance, and despair, were like a fond memory.

After that struggle.
I couldn't care less about the game.

While feeling satisfied, I continued selecting settings.

After the bonus point setting page, came the character setting page.
There wasn't any kind of explanation.
Is this supposed to be a browser game?

After getting such a high bonus point value, I felt awkward about stopping now.
I have no choice but to continue.

On the character setting page, there was physical strength, stamina increase, every kind of parameter to set, settings for bonus equipment, magic and skills, and had reached a point where I had to utilize the bonus points.

When I tried to experiment about raising the physical strength to 99, the bonus points became 0.
There was no change in the rest.

In this kind of game, when you raise your parameters you gain benefits, but there are many where you raise your level and your strength doesn't change.
Should I put points in something else?

How about bonus equipment.
I'll be able to obtain not less than the strongest equipment in the game?
But I think that only the start will be easy.

It seems that I can use magic.
Warp maybe, Gamma-ray burst.
However, what should I choose?

I was thinking that there was some kind of strategy site for this kind of game, but I didn't know the name of it.
Despite that, I'm trying this game.
Because the 99 bonus-point appeared, I didn't feel like doing it all over again.
If there was some kind of gimmick where you have to donate to get a 99, I'd rather just have waited.

What should I do?

Or that I was thinking, I found at the bottom at the last moment the button for character reset.

If you have bonus points you can redo them?
Because this was the character settings page, I think it's normal that you can redo your character sheet again.
If that's the case, I can stop worrying about it and think about the appropriate settings.

I clicked the character reset and checked.
Bonus-points 98.

It seems like I was able to reuse the bonus points.
Decrease required experience points.
Of course it was necessary
But, there is another skill next to that with increased experience points as well.
Are they different?

For now I chose both.
After checking the box, the bonus points dropped to 97 and the experience points required was cut in half.

The reinforced version of "decrease of required experience points" or should I say, the evolved form.

When I clicked the "decrease of required experience points" again, the bonus points drop to 95 and the rate drops from 1/2 to 1/3.
From 1/3 to 1/5 the points drop to 91. From 1/5 to 1/10 the points drop to 83.

The bonus points decreased all at once.
Apparently, the bonus point requirement doubles every time, 1, 2, 4, 8…

When I clicked on it again 1/10 dropped to 1/20 and the points dropped to 67.
Yep it doubles.

I clicked necessary experience is removed and it became 1/10 again and 83 points. Clicked again and it because 1/5 and 91.
I suppose that I should go for 1/3.

Now I choose the increase experience.
When I clicked it, the bonus points became 90 and the experience doubled.
The same pattern?

I increased it from double to triple, the points became 88.
I increased it from triple to quintuple, the points became 84.

Should I leave it here?
And the others?

Second job.

I can use this. Without a doubt.
Usually, the job system in games allows the utilization of certain skills and magic
So, If you have a second job you can utilize skills and magic of the second.
The bonus points are mysterious.
If you don't have bonus points and don't set the skills what happens to the player?

When I click the second job, the bonus points become 83, and changed to 3rd job.
The same pattern again?

In the beginning there weren't many jobs you could use.
If I needed a third job I would reset again.

There were settings for the skill of the job at the side.
Are they different?
If I don't set the job, are they going to put one on for convenience?
I'm going to come again if I have to reset.

Increase MP Recovery and Abbreviated Chanting, were they skills I could use? I don't know if I'm going to be able to use magic in the beginning, I'll leave to the reset.

Discount negotiation. Purchase negotiation.
I can reset if I have to buy something later.

Appraisal.

This has to be useful in this kind of strategy game.
What should I do?
I'll leave it for after.

I'm going to ignore the bonus chanting for the time being.
There is Lv99 death, release all MP, is that safe and are there any good spells?
But I'm not going to utilize the release of all HP.

If I say I'm not going to utilize something, I won't.
I return to the bonus equipment.
If a limited to the beginning only, it's absolutely necessary for the bonus equipment.

I click on weapons.
The bonus points drop to 82, the weapons change to 2.
Is it the same pattern for the bonus equipment?
I kept clicking to weapons 6, the bonus points drop to 20, it became a blurred character.
So far so good.

Now I clicked the accessory bonus twice the bonus points become 17.
Then, I clicked necessary experience to 1/5 (9 bonus points).

Remaining bonus points is 1.

Appraisal? Chanting bonus? Or maybe bonus equip?

Appraisal.
I clicked this at the end.

With that I used all my bonus points.
The selection is finalized and, the character setting is finished.

The screen changed.

Warning!
You have elected to abandon this world and live in another.
It is not possible for you to return.
Do you wish to continue?
Yes No

What is this? This isn't the account billing section.
If it's not the billing section then I don't care.

I clicked yes.

Final Warning!
It is really not possible to return.
Do you still wish to continue?
Yes No

How persistent. I clicked yes.
Eh?
I think that might have really been a dangerous message…maybe… its……
Without stopping to think calmly, like my consciousnesses was being sucked away, it disappeared far away.

Chapter 2 - Stable

When I came to, I was sleeping on straw.
Why straw?
I wasn't mistaken, it was indeed straw.
It seemed like it was a shed, with stacked straw, and I was sleeping there.

Is there a place with straw in Tokyo?
No, rather why am I here?

Come to think of it,
What did I do yesterday?

If I remember correctly I was trying to play a strange net game.
Then my consciousness flew away.

Then when I came to, I was on top of the straw.

Did something happen? I don't really know.
Is this the game?
Is this complete virtual reality?

Moreover, did I enter the game with just a click?
Impossible.

Is this a dream?

"Bururu"

Just then, there was the sound of neighing.
Ou. I was surprised.

There's something inside the shed.
I looked closely.

A horse.

Eh?
What?
Information about the horse suddenly comes to my mind.

There was no doubt that it was in fact a horse.

I approached the horse, he is a large animal.
The thickness of hoof, like a thoroughbred, well, it's a horse.
I don't know what kind of horse.

In a shed, that was maybe the size of a studio apartment,
there was a large animal. What a good position.
I wanted to tell it to apologize to me and my father for the 4 to 4.5 tatami room we lived in.

There's nothing I could do even if I got angry, I looked around.
Although it was gloomy, outside the window was a faint red tinge.

Was it sunset? Sunrise?
There were no signs of anyone in the surroundings.

Neither the windowpane nor wooden window opened.
The horse was quiet.
What is it? While I'm thinking about it, of course, the horse, his information comes to mind.

I think "What is it?" and the information comes to my mind.

Appraisal.

I recalled that.
Yesterday, in the character settings page, the last skill I added.

I see myself and appraisal in my mind.

Michio Kaga Man 17 years old
Villager Lv1

Oooh.

The information came to my mind.
Michio Kaga is my name.

Then, there's no doubt that this is inside a game.
It's a complete virtual reality?

But how?
First, I didn't register my name.

I have the same appearance and jersey I was wearing yesterday.
I have my usual clothing.

Did the game reproduce this?
Despite the fact that it's a jersey?

Plus, I'm barefoot.

It's not hot or cold.
I'm not embarrassed with my appearance, it's only a problem to go outside barefoot.

The light outside is dawn? Did it get lighter than a while ago?
I looked in the shed and found sandals and put them on.
When I think about what it is, the information comes to my mind.

Sandal boots – foot equipment.

I decided to wear them.
Because I don't have any socks, I wear them barefooted.
I tied the strings so they wouldn't come off.

I was checking my body, information comes to my mind.

Michio Kaga Man 17 years old
Villager Lv1 Thief Lv1

…Err.
Thief Lv1 means, "that" right?

My fault. I equipped something that wasn't mine.
In that way I got a second job.

By the way, the jersey isn't counted as equipment.
Because I brought from outside the game?

Incidentally, there should be an equipment bonus.
When I search the room, there was a sword next to the straw.

Durandal 2-handed sword
Skills: 5x offensive power, HP absorption, MP absorption, Incantation Interrupt
Disregard of lvl correction, Disregard Def

As one would expect of a weapons bonus.
It would appear that I have a hidden strength.

Next to the sword is a ring also.

Ring of Determination Accessory
Skills: Increase Atk, Personal Strengthing

The accessory has 2 skills, is that moderate?
I put the ring on a finger and take the sword.

Michio Kaga Man 17 years old
Villager Lv1 Theif Lv1
Equipment Durandal, Sandal boots, Ring of Determination

As expected, this is the inside of a game.
I can determine the character settings and bonus equipment.
Although I don't know how they implemented it in virtual reality.

I decided to leave the stable.
From a crevice in the string belt of the jersey, I place Durandal at my waist like a warrior.
If I stay here forever, It's going to be bad when they found out I stole the sandals.

The scenery outside was like any rural village.

There were several houses made of wood, with vegetable gardens.
The fields extended to the east with the sun and near the north where there is a forest.

Despite the fact the sun had yet to come up, the villagers had already started their jobs.
There were two people walking on the road.

I rushed behind the stable and hid.

Although, I don't know why I need to hide.
I don't even know where "here" is.
It's better to act cautiously.
There's all the fact that I stole the sandals.

From my cover I saw the two people.

Zaiyan Man 38 years old
Villager Lv8

Ganakku Man 35 years old
Villager Lv8

That was their information.

First, they aren't names.
They might not be players.
Their lvls aren't very high, maybe they're configured like this.
Although, I'm Lv1.

I entered the forest from the other side of the stable, I'm going to inspect the forest.
Maybe there isn't any problem if I appear in front of the village, but I continue.

The village extends to the southwest.
There are 3 private homes and 40 houses.
In the center there is a two and three story house, as well.

I observe the people leaving the house.

Villager Lv11

Villager Lv4

Farmer Lv5

Oh, that person is not a villager.
The person looks like a wife, she is a villager Lv6.
I don't know if there's a difference between farmer and villager.

The game looks good, though the tutorial didn't come out.
Without appraisal, I wouldn't know anything.

I keep observing.

Farmer Lv2

Villager Lv7

Villager Lv25

The middle-age man has the highest lvl.
If I talk to somebody, it has to be the highest lvl?
Or should it be the lowest lvl?

Village chief Lv8

The village chief has a questionable lvl. It appears that he is 68 years.

Merchant Lv6

Is that a peddler? There's a shop somewhere in the village?

It seems that they had left the three-story house, now they were entering.

Merchant Lv3

This time is a woman.
It seems that they had left that house to go to a water well.

If they were a couple, is that house a shop?
That merchant looks good if I'm going to hear his story.

Suddenly, while thinking, a big voice from the village resounded.

Chapter 3 - Thief

An enormous roar resounded throughout the entire village.

I peered in the direction of the voices.
There was a two-man party, outside the village, who looked like they were rushing back.

It seemed they were shouting something but I couldn't understand what they were saying. A bit later, villagers started appearing from their houses carrying swords and hoes.

Could it be that I had been discovered?
Or that's what I thought, but it didn't look like they were headed in my direction.

The villagers gathered and hurried toward the east.
I followed them quietly through the forest.

Looking east, I noticed a cloud of sand blowing this direction.
All the villagers were headed that way.

Thief Lv 7
Equipment: copper sword – leather shoes

Thief Lv 11
Equipment: copper sword – leather armor – leather shoes
Thief Lv 4
Equipment: copper sword
Although the thieves were far enough away to look like grains of rice, the information popped up in my mind.

With the help of appraisal, the current situation became clear.

Is this a thieves' raid start-of-game event?
If I can stay hidden maybe I can do something.

The levels of the thieves are generally high.
I could deal with them if they had single-digit levels
because I'm carrying the sacred sword Durandal.

The villagers couldn't match me with their copper swords.

The villagers had taken position around the barn I had been sleeping in on the boarder of the village.
It seems they will fight the thieves there
At the center stood a Lv 25 middle-aged man.
There was also the village chief there as well.
He was at an improbable Lv 8.

The thieves that they were confronting….

Thief Lv 41
Equipment : iron sword – Thief's bandana – iron armor – leather shoes

It seems that he is the leader.
His level is high.
He was equipped with a thief's bandana.

The next strongest was only Lv 19
The third – the Lv 11 from before.
The rest were in single digits.

Is it because this is the first even that they're so low?
If I'm cautious with the leader, I can probably even defeat him somehow.

When the Thieves arrived at the village, they started attacking the villagers.

The villagers responded with a counter-attack of their own.

Soon, both sides clashed in the middle and it was impossible to tell who belonged to which side. I can't understand what they're saying or shouting.

They were fighting right in front of where I was hidden.
If I leave the forest I can take them by surprise.

Because of their low-levels, no one is over-powered, it's become a test of skill, sword to sword.
The middle-aged Lv 25 man was fighting the Lv 41 leader.

But there's a level gap and the leader eventually begins to dominate. The leader throws the middle-age man down. The middle-age man tried to move his arm while on the ground but was stabbed instead.

What did he do?
It seems like he was stabbed through an opening in his armor by the thief's sword
I heard it's a practice to wear armor in ancient martial arts.

The middle-aged man lay prostate, naturally the leader turns to face him.
Is now my chance perhaps?

If it is, I get the feeling that I can get the leader without being noticed.
With my holy sword Durandal, a single hit from behind should be enough to deal considerable damage.

My heart is pounding.
I unsheathed Durandal which was shining in its scabbard, and I grabbed the hilt tightly with both hands.

Durandal is heavier than a wooden sword, but not to the extent that I can't wield it.
It's easy for me, who has practiced kendo.
If this is the initial game event, then they shouldn't be enemies that I don't have a chance of defeating as a Lv 1.

Then there's no choice but to go.

I took another deep breath.
I concentrate on the sounds around me.
I still can't understand anything they're saying.

I rush from the forest.
I sprint toward the Lv 41 leader at full speed.

Along the way, a thief notices and tries to stop me.
I swung Durandal and slayed the Lv 2 thief in a single stroke.
Was that really Lv 2?

I raised Durandal again, and continued to run. I jumped a little at the

end and landed next to the leader.
I focused my intent to kill him and conveyed that to my arms I stood firmly and swung Durandal downwards/
I swung the sword at the leader's neck and sent it flying.
Red blood spurted from what remained from said neck.

Uwaa.
What is this a splatter game?
This is definitely a shitty game.

But I don't have time to think.
I started taking on the other thieves.

The thieves that surrounded the leader were the single-digit thieves and were felled in a single stroke.
Every time I swung Durandal more blood sprayed and the enemies were reduced to a few remaining memebers.

I searched for the next strongest, the Lv 19 thief.
While taking the necks of the small fries right and left I checked the thieves.
The Lv 19 had separated from the group a little and was battling the village chief.
There are some villagers gathering around the chief, they're strengthening their defense.

Someone shouted something.
The Lv 19 looked over here and as expected shouted something.

They stopped fighting and began to flee.
They started to withdraw, because their leader had been defeated.

Now that their backs were turned, this is my chance.
I started to pursue them.

I slaughtered some of them from behind.
Directly in my path was the Lv 11, the third man.
I blocked the sword that came from and returned with my own swing to the left, which he blocked.
Because he has armor, I probably can't take him out in one blow.

With a quick decision and a twitch of the sword, I hit his forearm.

If this was kendo, this is something I would definitely do.
I completely cut off the Lv 11's right wrist and it fell to the ground.
I ignore the blood spurting from his wrist and finish him off. Because he didn't have his wrist he couldn't lift his sword.
I sent the Lv 11 thief's head flying.

I ran from the splash of blood.
The thieves were in full retreat mode.
The Lv 19 thief was the first to try and escape. What a putts. Or rather, he's a thief 'til the end.

I slaughtered more as they tried to escape. Finally the Lv 19 was cut off.
The Lv 19 thief with his defenseless back turned toward me was no match for Durandal.

The remaining enemies were scattering.
In the end, none could escape my wrath and became my experience. (Tln: Bwahahahaha)

「Fuu」

After defeating every thief, I sat down on the spot.
Although this is a game, my breathing is rough.
I let out a deep breath and recovered my composure.
The sounds of my surroundings suddenly returned to me.

In the field, the thieves' corpses and their blood was all over the place.
It's not necessary to make it so real.
It seems that it takes time for the bodies to disappear.

Didn't the beta testers complain?
Maybe because I haven't heard of any virtual reality games that what I am doing now is beta testing.
Then I'm going to make a complaint.

When I regained my breath, the village chief approached me.
That village with his doubtfully low Lv 8.

「××××××××××」
「I don't understand what you are saying」

「Pardon me sir. Do you speak Brahim?」
「××××××××××」

It was that setting.

「That's right」
「Oh. As expected. That's an adventurer for you」

What do you mean "as expected"? You're talking too.

「Something like that」

I just nod and agree.

「You've saved this village from is problem, thank you very much」
「No, it was nothing」

It was that kind of event.

But, I'm being unusually impertinent.
It must because of how the village chief is depreciating himself and doesn't stop praising me. Although his level is low, he is tentatively the chief.
It's troublesome that he's being so polite, somehow it's become like this.

「Please allow me to express my gratitude in any way I can」
「Is that so? Then, is there somewhere I can lie down? I'm a bit tired」

Although this is a game, it practically feels like I moved around so I'm tired.
As expected of virtual reality.
Besides, I don't want to hang around with corpses any more. Hurry up and disappear.

「Then, please come to my house. I'm called Somara the village chief」

Somara Man, 68
Village chief Lv8
Equipment: Sword of copper – Robe – Sandals boots – Village chief's ring

The information did not seem to be in err.

「Please. My name is Michio」

I guess they don't have a family name, I guess that just Michio is fine.
The village chief started to walk away, so I stood and hurried after him.

「××××××××××」
「××××××××××」

I couldn't understand the conversation between the village chief and villager at all.
What's happening with this game?

「Are the people that can speak Brahim so few?」
「In this village, only myself, the merchant Bikka and the mistress of the inn」
「Funn~ It's like that?」
「Despite being so young Michio-sama you can handle Brahim well」
「Hmm」

What's so amazing?
By the way, Brahim isn't Japanese? If it's not Japanese this is strange.
Though it wouldn't be possible for me to communicate, for some reason I can comprehend everything perfectly.
I don't understand virtual reality at all.

「Although there was one other that could talk Brahim, another adventurer, in that battle just now, he……」

The village chief lowered his voice.
It seems that was the Lv 25 middle-aged man. Or was there someone else besides the villagers with the job of adventurer? But I couldn't find another capable person.
What is going on?

I see myself.

Michio Kaga, Male, 17

Villager Lv 2, Thief Lv 2
Equipment: Durandal – Sandal boots – Ring of Determination

Otto—
It seems that my level rose from the last battle.
Should I say its natural with the fierce fighting? Or rather should I grieve that despite the fierceness of the battle my level only rose by one?

We headed towards the village chief's house.

「××××××××××」
「××××××××××」
「A hot bath is being prepared for you」
「Sorry」

The village chief spoke to a person of the house, who led me inside.
The chief's house was private, two-story building. It had the rustic appearance of earthy walls.
It doesn't seem like the civilization level is very high. It seems to be something like a town from the middle ages.
They don't have guns or bows.

There's a dirt floor from the entryway to the entrance.
I was guided to a small room just beside that.

「Please, take a rest for a while in this room」
「Allow me to do that」
「Well then」

There's no difference with this room, it has a dirt floor and inside there's a plank of wood.
I lay on the plank.

「Fuu」

I sighed.
For the time being, log out?
……

Eh?
How do I log out?

Chapter 4 - Grasp of the situation

I can't log out.。

I panicked.
If I think about it, I don't know how to log out.
I didn't receive an explanation or a tutorial.

How do I return to reality?

「Logout……」

I was murmuring that, but nothing happened.

「Logoff. Close. Interruption. End. Menu. Open. Save」

Nothing happen.

「Menu open. Main menu. End menu. Options menu. End options. Window. Window open. Menu window. End window. Memory. Save. End save. Overwrite save. Reset. Clear. Comeback. Return. End. Over. Finished……」

I tried everything I can think of but nothing happened.

I can't return to reality.

No, rather, is this really a game?

My senses are telling me this place is real.
Without a doubt.
It is impossible that this is a dream.

Even if this was really inside a game and a virtual reality, I have never heard of such a perfect virtual reality.
Yet, through only a click with the mouse in the browser.
Headgear or something like that, I don't have such equipment.

And I have a sense of reality yet this is not a virtual reality world.
If I have to say it in one way or another, this is reality.

But, there is a reason why I think this is a game.
I use appraisal and look at myself.

Michio Kaga Man 17 Years
Villager Lv2 Thief Lv2
Equipment : Sandals boots – Ring of determination

Because that kind of thing is possible, this must be inside a game, right?

However, after seeing my appearance, I have confirmed.
The blood stained in my jersey.

If this was a game, things like blood disappear.
So if this was a game, why didn't the blood disappear no matter how much time has passed?

Is this place really inside a game?
No, if this is a game, why can't I log out?
Can I return to reality?

Warning!
You have selected to thrown away this world to live in another world.
It is not possible to come back to this world.
Do you continue?

The last memory at my house.
At the end of the setting, I'm sure that question appeared.
That may be true.

Certainly, I can use appraisal and I have what seems to be the level 6 weapon armament, Durandal, as well.
Just because this may be inside a game, I can't be relieved.
If this is the setting of the world that I choose, that warning that appeared may be real.

「Excuse me」

When I was thinking about such things, the village chief has entered.
He entered with a tub made of wood, filled with hot water.

「Ah, yes」

「Please, wipe your body with this hot water」

There was what appears to be a maid, an old lady and she leave the tub and a plain towel.
It's only a piece of cloth rather than a towel.。

「Sorry」
「A change of clothing was prepared. Because your clothes got dirty, we have to wash them」
「Please do」

The old lady fold up the clothes and put them on the plank.
From her age of 66 years and the impression that I received, I think that she's the village chief's wife.
After finishing, she went out with the village chief.

I, who was alone, take off the jersey and wipe my body with the towel.
The jersey has red stains in several places.
Thieves' blood.

There is no sign that it's going to disappear, no matter how much time passed.
If this is not inside a game, of course it's not going to disappear.
As expected, this is not inside a game.

I let out a great breath

Indeed, I can use appraisal, and I have the level 6 weapon armament.
Nevertheless, who decided that this was the inside of a game?

Final warning.
It's really not possible to go back.

Including the last warning, this is a world where the settings I chose are valid.
In other words, this is reality.
The warning was for this other world.

Yes.
I have to accept this.

I noticed. I was only escaping from reality.

From what reality was I escaping from?

Homicide.

If this was within a game, I only defeated a character in the game.
But if this is not a game, I didn't kill a character but a person.

That's why, I wanted to think that this is a game.

It is only an escape from reality, a wish.
Just an illusion.

I must accept this.
This is my reality.

I've committed murder.
I killed a person.

Killing while thinking it is just a game event, but the sensation of Durandal still remains in my hand.
I took the life of another person.

But if I think about it.
This is a world where it's normal that thieves attacks a village.
If I can't log out, it's possible that I'm going to have to kill somebody again.
I will not be able to avoid that.

If I can't avoid that, it's likely that I'm going to be done for, thinking this is just a game.
When it's important I have to be cold, or I'm going to suffer.

The opponent was a thief.

I don't need to be depressed or worried.
If i didn't do it, they would have done something to me.
It's necessary that I have to accept this reality.

I breathe deeply one more time and prepare myself.

This is reality.
And, this is the world I'm going to live in from now on,

To live, it’s necessary to dirty my own hands. I don’t need to fear that.
I must do whatever is necessary.

This reminds me, there is another reason to think that this place is from the settings I have chosen.
I try to think about the character reset.

The character screen appears in my mind.
It seems that it’s possible to move the cursor in the image.

Resetting the character with the bonus points appear to be possible.
As expected, all of the setting is adjusted.
Even the last warning is included.

I don’t know why the bonus points became 1.
I used them completely, did I failed to notice?

For the time being, I closed the character setting.

I’m going to change to the clothes that the village chief brought me.
The shirt and the trouser are large. Though both are indigo, the color of the trouser is darker.
Although they are stiff and uncomfortable, it’s not to the point I can’t wear them.

Michio Kaga Man 17 Years
Villager Lv2 Thief Lv2
Equipment : Sandals boots – Ring of determination

Apparently this does not count as equipment.
I don’t have Durandal in my equipment, must be because I removed it from my waist.

By the way, should I remove the bonus equipment?

Durandal is certainly an amazing sword. A very amazing sword. I felt it when I was fighting the thieves.
Aiming with it was very easy.

If this is a game, they can’t steal it.
But, if this is not a game, there is no such restriction.。

I have sandal boots on. This certainly belongs to somebody.
If I can make the sandals boots from someone mine, they can make Durandal their's too.

This is dangerous for two reasons.

First, if they steal my Durandal, there is the possibility I will lost the 63 bonus points.
The bonus points are the few allies I have in this world.
No, you can say they are the only allies I have (the 99 points).
I cannot lose them.

Secondly, the person that stole Durandal might be aiming for my life.

What is the death penalty in this world?
The level decrease and you revive in the church?

In any case, it's better if I don't carry Durandal often.
If it's really necessary, I can just reset the points.

The moment Durandal is stolen, I only have to erase it.
Let's try to enter the setting when I don't have Durandal.
…I can't tamper with the level 6 weapon armament setting.
The ring is equipped, so I can change its setting.
Like I figured, when Durandal is stolen, I lost the bonus points.

I close the character setting and carry Durandal.
I reopen the character setting in my mind.

I remove armament 6. The bonus points became 67.

How should i use the bonus points?
I chose necessary experience 1/10 and increased experience x10.
Bonus points remained: 35
I chose necessary experience 1/20, bonus points: 3.
I chose Job setting and third job (bonus points 2), bonus points 0.

The character setting closed.
Durandal has disappeared.

I think about job setting.

My job appears in my mind.

Villager Lv2 Thief Lv2 Hero Lv1.

Because I choose the third job in character reset, it increases by one.
When I choose Hero Lv1, the information appears in my mind.

Hero Lv1
Effect : Increased HP – Increased MP – Increased physical strength – Increased stamina –
Increased wisdom – Increased spirit – Increased dexterity – Increased agility
Skill : Over howl

Did I have it from the beginning?
No, that is impossible.
If I acquired the thief job when I stole the sandal boots, then the hero job comes after.
Maybe it was when I defended the village from the thieves.

I tried to change my first job to hero but I couldn't do it.
I can only choose villager or thief as the first job. Why?

The effect of villager is an insignificance increased of stamina. No skills. Quite shabby.

It can't be helped, I'm setting the third job as hero Lv1.
The effect of hero is amazing. At least it can't be compared to villager.

The second job is thief Lv2.
The effect of thief is a very small increased in agility.
It's better than villager,

The job setting is finished, the status is confirmed.。

Michio Kaga Man 17 Years
Villager Lv2 Hero Lv1 Thief Lv2
Equipment : Sandals boots

Chapter 5 - Examination

「Excuse me. Is it alright to come in?

The village chief came again.

「Ah, I don't mind. What happened? 」

This is not good. I'm becoming arrogant because of his attitude.
Rather, the village chief regards me too highly.
I'm just a mere high school student.

Well, although I called myself a student, it doesn't matter here.
I'm only an ordinary person, passing by here, moreover, a Lv2.

「Because we already collected the equipment, please examine them.」

With the borrowed power of Durandal, I slaughtered the thieves like grasshopper, so they are cautious of me.
It wouldn't be good if my sword turns against them.
But it's also not possible for them to ignore the benefactor who saved the village. If you act imprudent and cold, you will receive ill will too.

From the position of the village chief, I am nothing but a troublesome existence.
They can do nothing but wait for me to leave, it's that type of strategy.

「Understood」

Though I say that, I didn't understand anything.
Examine what?
It's fine to make the equipment mine?。

Because I defeated the thieves, their equipment is going to be mine.
If there is someone strong, and the villagers are weak, the strong one can act as he pleases through violence.

「This way」
「Is it okay for me to take the equipment?」

I asked the village chief while we walk.

「Yes. Michio-sama defeated the thieves, naturally the equipment belongs to Michio-sama」
「Is it so?」

It seems that the equipment is going to be mine.
It's not like there are police or justice like modern times, so maybe this is the norm.

「This time, the villagers has defeated two thieves. Therefore, I want to distribute two portions of the equipment to them, would that be alright? 」

The villagers only defeated two thieves?
This reminds me, they only exchanged some blows.
I, who have Durandal, only needed one hit.

「Understood. I don't mind」

I don't know what is normal in this world so I'm going to accept the proposal.
They probably only won thanks to me, but if I take everything, surely there will be complaints.
It's better if I don't do that.
Currently, I'm just a villager Lv2. I don't have Durandal with me now, if all the villagers get serious it's going to be dangerous.

「Thank you very much. Let me give you thanks on behalf of the village」

As expected, they don't take another attitude towards the Lv2 me.

「Don't worry」

Perhaps, because appraisal is a bonus skill, the village chief and the villagers can't use it.

The villagers may think that my lvl is 30 or more.
Because most villagers can't defeat the thieves.

The highest lvl among the villagers was 25 and he was defeated by the leader, in the village there is no one that can match me.
If that is the case, then that's why they are lowering themselves and praise me.

The place I was guided to was a corner at the edge of the village, they placed the equipment there.
A man was standing there.

Bikka Man 31 Years
Merchant Lv6
Equipment : Armor of wood – Shoes of leather

Maybe he is the merchant I saw this morning.

「His name is Bikka, the only merchant in the village」
「I am called Bikka. This time you have saved the village and everyone, i cannot express how grateful i am」
「I'm Michio. Don't exaggerate so much」

I'm glad they are thanking me, but I don't like to hear that from people I just met.

「Understood. Here are the equipments of the thieves」

I examine the equipment.

Armor of leather : Body Equipment

Boots of leather : Foot Equipment

Sword of copper : Sword of both hands

It seems that everything is ordinary.

「××××××××××」
「Oh, really? The villagers who defeated the thieves are going to be glad」
「I don't care」
「××××××××××」

The villager chief seems to have spoken with the merchant about the two portions of the equipment.

If only they will speak in brahim.

「Does Michio-sama have any capacity left in your space?」

The merchant asks.

「Space?」

Shit.
A term I don't know. Do I have capacity left in my space?

「Is my brahim unskillful? Its space to store the equipment」
「……Maybe, there isn't space left, I think」

I don't understand. The space I have left is not enough?

「Michio-sama is not an adventurer?」
「No, well, that kind of thing is..」

Is there any special meaning to an adventurer?
If I'm slow my facade is going to crumble.

「If someone is an adventurer, they can create a space to store the items and equipment, you can utilize a magic skill for the space. Maybe it is currently full because you stored your sword?」

The village chief shows me a lifeboat.

Is that so? It seems convenient.
There is a bag that is like an inventory, an item box.

After resetting, Durandal was gone.
From the perspective of the village chief, it seems like I have put it in my space.

「The inventory, eh?」
「The inventory?」
「Inventory, open. Item box, open. Tool bag. Item space…… Open……」

I murmured in a low voice to see what happens, but nothing.
Is the command different? Guess I don't remember that.
In any case, it seems that I will not be able to use it for now.

The village chief and the merchant are looking at me with cold eyes, I have that feeling.
Muttering a weird thing, it's painful looking at me. It's too painful.
A patient who suffer from chuunibyou.
Calm, calm down my left hand.

「……What's wrong?」
「I'm afraid to say that my space is full」

The truth is that I can't use it, I don't know where Durandal was send.
Or rather, where is Durandal?

「At the dawn of tomorrow, I'm going to the town Beiru to sell my goods. If you don't mind, you can transport the equipment in my wagon to the town. In Beiru there is a weapon shop and an armor shop. It's likely you can sell them in the city.」

The merchant offers.
I was hoping that this merchant would buy the equipment, but I was wrong.
Is he is going to take a little of the profit?

「I'm very grateful. I shall do that」

Maybe it's my job to sell my own equipment.
One leather armor and one leather boots.
I don't know if I can sell them. I'm grabbing two swords of cooper.

Sword of iron : Sword of both hands

What do I do with the iron sword?
It's one rank above the other equipment.
Even if I have something good, people may steal or aim for it.
But, it doesn't appear to be rare equipment, should i sell it?

「Here are the intelligence cards」

The merchant brings out a card, the size of a notepad.

「Intelligence card?」

What is that?

I repeat like a parrot.

「Among the thieves there are some with a bounty. Present this to the knights in Beiru to receive the reward」
「I see」

I understood the story.
If the thieves are rampaging, there should be a bounty.
And the card is proof that you defeated the thieves?
It seems this is common sense and everyone in this world knows about it.
I don't want them to think something strange about me.
When receiving the card I didn't look strangely at it and just accepted. I remain calm and continue checking the equipment.

Sword of cooper : Sword of both hands

Sword of cooper : Sword of both hands

When I was checking the equipment, something strange occurred.

Sword of cooper : Sword of both hands
Skill : Empty

Durandal too has a skill attached.

Did something happen?

To me who hold the sword in my hand, the merchant ask with a sharp sight.
There is no skill called empty, I think this is an open skill slot.

「This is a good item」
「What do you mean?」

But then, I don't know how to attach a skill.

「Skill. Skill slot. Grant skill. Manage skill」

I ended up murmuring again.
Nothing happened.
It doesn't change anything.
Perhaps I should say that murmuring doesn't change anything.

It only works while thinking about appraisal or the character settings.

「I heard that a blacksmith can attach the skill of a monster card, does that sword have any skills?
「No, it doesn't.」
「I see」

It seems that you need a specific job to apply the skill.
What is a monster card?。

「However, this sword is not so bad. I will take it as part of my fees」
「You can see whether this does or does not have a skill?」

The village chief asks.

「Only generally. Let's call it the perception of an adventurer」

Because appraisal is a bonus skill, there should be few people who have it.
There is no need to talk about the fact that I have it.

「Like I said a moment ago about the sword the deceased villager was using. Could you examine it? If it's a good sword it can make the life of the family left behind easier」
「If I can understand it」
「Thank you very much. I will bring it immediately」

The village chief left.

Afterwards, I continue with the equipment.
It seems there isn't another with a skill or a skill slot.

Armor of iron : Body Equipment

Bandana : Head equipment

The two piece of equipment from the leader

Eh?
The equipment of the leader was a bandana?

chapter 6 - Theft

Gear for thieves was arranged around the place including a bandana, however it was different to the one the level 41 bandit was wearing.

Maybe this one will become a thieves bandana if you put it on your head…. no, it was probably just a different piece of gear.

Then, what is this bandana….?

“What is this bandana?”

“I thought it was the one the bandit was wearing?”

The merchant doesn’t seem to understand.

Maybe I should be more forceful with my questioning.

There was no bandit wearing a plain bandana.

The bandana of the level 41 bandit is not here.

Possibly it was secretly switched with this bandana.

If this was Japan I’d back down because I don’t like attracting attention or trouble.

But this is not Japan.

In this world if I am defeated then everything ends.

I came to this world, I defended a village, and I killed a bandit (even if I didn’t do that for the village).

Maybe there is a misunderstanding.

No, it was definately a different bandana.

“The bandit wore a different bandana.”

“Huh….?”

The merchants face distorts in astonishment.

The merchant seems to be innocent, or very good at acting.

“××××××××××”

“××××××××××”

The village chief has returned.

He is also innocent judging by his reaction.

“No way…. we should investigate this. Please wait a moment.”

The village chief leaves quickly.

What will happen now?

I really feel like a Lv2 villager.

It won’t be good if this becomes a big commotion.

Can the stolen gear be found this easily?

If the village chief is involved I could be attacked by all the villagers, and I will not be able to win.

Was I too rash?

Even so, I’m annoyed at the theft and don’t like keeping silent.

It’s not good to be patient in this world.

At the very least I should prepare my Durandal.

When I look around I see a woman with three swords. She is probably a former adventurer.

“What about those swords?”

I try to ask the merchant.

“Hmmmm”

“May I see them?”

“××××××××××”

“××××××××××”

The merchant says something, and the woman holds out a sword.

Tirihi: 31yo female villager. Lv12

Sword: Flaming Rapier.

Is she the widow of an adventurer?

She has blond hair like someone from eastern europe.

She is slightly dusty from living in the country, but I’d welcome spending the night with her.

Even the villagers of this world are beautiful.

I’m itching to ask for her help at night.

She is a widow and….

Ah, my delusions are starting to explode.

I’m the hero who saved the village.

Shouldn’t I press this for a nighttime “reward”?

They are very friendly here.

I take the sword in my hand.

Rapier: One handed sword.

Skill: Flame sword.

“This looks like quite a good sword.”

“Is it?”

I hold it out.

“Flame Sword!”

I swing the Rapier.

…

Nothing happened.

The sword was just shaken.

Tirihi and the merchant are looking at me suspiciously.

I think I passed a game flag.

An incantation is floating in my head.

Should I recite this?

This sword definitely has the skill of a flame sword.

There might be an effect of flames while cutting.

“I call upon my heart, release your power in a torrent. Flame Sword!”

I recite the incantation, and flames cover the blade of the rapier.

Hmm.

Awesome!

“Ha~u ……”

Tirihi also looks surprised.

Isn’t this your husbands sword?

Maybe I shouldn’t have said anything?

In the edge of my view I see the village chief talking to a villager.

The villagers seem to have seen the flames and look surprised.

What happens if I steal something? It would be good to find out.

Though I’m already wearing someone else’s sandals.

“××××××××××”

“××××××××××”

The merchant and Tirihi are also speaking.

I suddenly feel tired, not physically, but mentally.

Why is it?

Did using the skill consume MP?

Probably my magic is not strong enough.

Using this often is probably too much for a Lv2 villager.

“Do you think this is likely to sell well?”

The merchant asks.

“Sorry, I am not sure about it’s value.”

“It looks amazing.”

“I just don’t know what a good price is for this sort of thing. You should take this to a weapon shop to be valued.”

I don’t even know what the value of the currency is like in this world.

“××××××××××”

“××××××××××”

The merchant says something and Tirihi comes towards me.

I return the flame sword, and Tirihi passes me a second sword.

Scimitar: One handed sword.

Skill: (Empty) (Empty)

There are two unused skill slots on this sword.

It seems like this sword is quite good also.

“This doesn’t have any skills, but it is still quite a good sword.”

“An adventurer who died used to take really good care of it.”

Do they know there is empty skill slots on it?

Maybe you need an adventurers intuition.

“You should check the value of this at a weapon store as well. They might buy it.”

“××××××××××”

“××××××××××”

I return the sword to Tirihi.

Dagger: One handed sword.

The last sword seems to be just a plain dagger.

It’s probably not very valuable.

“This is a plain dagger. It isn’t bad, but the value won’t be high, however it is easy for women to use. As a memento of a former adventurer you should treasure it.”

I pass the dagger back to Tirihi.

“××××××××××”

After hearing from the merchant Tirihi’s eyes redden.

While holding back tears, Tirihi leaves with the swords.

I think I’ve reminded her of her husband, and passed a flag.

After Tirihi has left, the village chief enters with several men.

“I am sorry. This man secretly swapped the bandana’s.”

A man wearing wooden handcuffs is looking down behind the village chief.

Did he do it on his own, or is he a scapegoat?

“××××××××××”

“××××××××××”

“Here is the correct item.”

When the village chief urges it the next man presents a bandana.

It is the thieves bandana.

There is no skill on the bandana.

“Yes, this is it.”

“And, the punishment for this man.…?”

The village chief looks at my expression.

I understand what they want.

It won’t become a serious matter if they handle it within the village.

“Your village rules will be fine. I won’t object to how you handle it”

I think I’m pretty good at reading the mood.

“I understand”

The village chief seems to be a bit disappointed.

Did I misunderstand something?

“××××××××××”

“××××××××××”

The village chief says something to the criminal.

He is pulled forward by the handcuffs.

“Intentions of the soul, breath of wisdom, intelligence card, open!”

When the village chief recites the incantation, a card appears from the back of the criminals left hand.

What’s going on?

Awesome!

It’s the same as when I got the intelligence card from the thieves some time ago.

How did this happen?

The village chief mutters something to the criminals card.

“What did you just do?”

“I added the slave status to his intelligence card. He’ll remain a slave now until we release him, or until a fine is paid.”

“Okay”

It’s confusing.

I guess somehow the intelligence card contains important information about someones life.

It’s probably also proof for thieves with bounty’s on their heads.

“Our village rule states that if there is a theft, the criminal will become a slave and then sold off. Half of the money from selling them will go towards their family, and the other half will go to their victim.”

It’s quite severe.

So this is how someone becomes a slave.

I understand it now.

I would have liked the village chief to have told me this from the start.

As the victim I feel it didn’t need to go this far, but it’s too late to say that now.

“It’s a first offense, I don’t mind if you show mercy.”

“I understand. I apologize on behalf of the village.”

“The criminal has been caught. As the village chief you don’t need to apologize.”

“Thank you, has the inspection of the equipment finished?”

“Yes”

“Then please come by my house. Breakfast is nearly ready.”

“Thank you.”

I am glad we changed the topic.

I think I’ll try and leave this place quickly.

Chapter 7 - Demon

“Please stay at this house tonight, I will organize dinner.”

The village chief says this as we eat breakfast.

Breakfast is salad and cheese with oatmeal.

It isn’t really tasty, but it’s not bad either.

If I can have meals of this level I might be able to survive in this world after all.

Dinner will probably be something a bit nicer because it’s the village chief preparing something for the hero who saved the village.

There was no mention of lunch. In the past humans only ate two large meals a day, which may still be common in this world.

“I will take you up on that offer.”

“The merchant will be taking a carriage to Vale tomorrow. He’ll be leaving quite early so make sure to have an early night if you want to go along.”

“How long does it take to get to Vale?”

“Around three hours by carriage”

I wonder if three hours is the same as earth time?

If the merchant leaves at 8:00am, then he should arrive by 11:00am. If he plans to return here the same day then he’ll probably leave there at 3:00pm to arrive back here at 6:00pm. This means he’ll be in Vale for 4 hours. (TN If Jimmy has 5 apples, and you take 3….)

The merchant said he’s just picking up stock, so it might be shorter.

Maybe he’ll leave before the sun rises.

There is more chance of finding a good bargain if he is early.

“I would like to go then.”

“I’ll let the merchant know.”

Now, what will I do until then?

“Are there monsters near the village?”

“There are demons.”

“Ah, ok.”

So, they are called demons.

“If you go into the depths of the forest you’ll find the slow rabbit.”

“I see, I might go and fight that.”

Even though it has a weak sounding name, it should help me get information.

There is always the possibility it’s a strong demon too.

I had better not make any assumptions.

“The slow rabbit does not attack people, so it is a reasonably easy fight.”

“Really? Have you fought them?”

Sounds like it will be an easy victory.

I can kill time fighting some.

“Do you want to hunt the slow rabbit?”

The village chief dropped his voice a bit.

Hmmmm.

Did I misunderstand something?

“You said it was an easy fight.”

“A group of several villagers can defeat them, so for you it should be an easy win.”

“Is that so?”

It might be reasonably strong if it takes several people.

“If you defeat it, it drops fur, and on rare occasions it will drop meat.”

So the rabbits fur drops every time, but meat is a rare drop.

I have trouble understanding the reason.

“Is there any problem if I go demon hunting?”

“Hunting demons is fine.”

Maybe it would have been better if there was a problem.

If it takes several people then maybe it’s dangerous.

However I guess I’ll have to hunt my first demon eventually.

Since I will have to, it’s probably better to do sooner rather than later.

I don’t think I have a death wish. Sure if I go chasing trouble I may die, but I’ll die a man.

Though I guess visiting the suicide website was how I first came to this world.

Committing suicide, or being killed by a demon. I guess in the end there is not much difference.

I said that I’ll go, so I will.

Well, it’s a slow rabbit.

“I’ll head to the depths of the forest before dinner.”

I’ll manage somehow with my durandal.

The village chief said it will be an easy victory.

“There is a young person in the village that would like to hunt a slow rabbit, would you be interested in going together?”

“Hmmmm.”

“It will be good experience if they go with you.”

What should I do?

Of course it might be safer with a companion.

However it might be troublesome if people find out I am weak.

I have caused one man who lived in the village to become a slave. His family may retaliate if they find out.

“Sorry, but I’ll decline. I’ve never fought one before so I’m not sure if I can look after a companion.”

“Oh, I see. Sorry I’ve been a bit too forward.”

I made up a good reason and decline the offer.

After the meal, I grabbed the thieves card, and the copper sword.

I then headed into the depths of the forest.

The demon did not show up.

In a game, monsters would be appearing just a single step outside the village.

Though if I think about it, they wouldn’t make the village in such a dangerous place.

“Intelligence card, open!”

Since I am alone, I try something interesting.

…

Though, nothing happened.

Maybe the incantation was different, or it’s not something I can learn after hearing it just once.

Do I have an intelligence card?

Thinking about it makes me feel anxious.

Finally I came across a strange animal.

It's about 50 centimeters long, and covered in white fur.

Is it the slow rabbit?

When I think about it, information appears.

Slow rabbit Lv1

Oh

It seems the judgement skill can be used.

It even shows the level.

It doesn't show how much strength the slow rabbit has.

I'll go in carefully with my durandal.

I brought up my character stats window.

I reset my stat points, and put points into 5x decrease in required experience til next level, and put points into 5x increased experience gain. There's 64 points remaining so I put them into weapon skill 6.

I have 1 bonus skill point.

What should I use it on?

Maybe a bonus incantation?

Meteor crash.

That sounds like a strong spell.

I select Meteor crash, and my character settings ends.

My durandal appears in my left hand.

If I use magic I might not need the durandal, but I don't know if I'll defeat it in one shot.

I hand the durandal at my waist.

It's troublesome to keep two swords hanging at my waist, so for

now I lean the copper sword against a tree.

I remove the durandal from it's sheath and firmly grasp it with both hands.

The slow rabbit has not noticed me yet.

I'll make a sneak attack from the shadows of the tree.

Go!

"Meteor Crash!"

I yelled.

…

…?

…

Nothing happens.

Nothing changes.

A light gust blows between me & the slow rabbit.

People would have laughed if they had seen this scene.

Thankfully I'm in the depths of the forest.

There is an incantation. It's different.

The incantation appears in my head.

I try to use it.

"From the emptiness of space, the destruction of everything, Meteor Crash!"

This time it will work!

Or so I though. Nothing happens.

Nothing changes.

There's the problem.

My MP is not enough.

I think the MP I used on the Flame sword, and my fatigue have both recovered after my meal.

I just don't have enough total MP to activate Meteor crash while I'm Lv2.

Since there is no other way, I charge in with my durandal.

My body feels light. An effect of hero Lv1.

The slow rabbit turns towards me & stands up.

As expected, it doesn't run away. Since I was told it takes several villagers to fight it, it should be stronger than one person.

However, I have a saint sword, durandal.

He will taste the sharpness of my durandal

I use it to slash down towards the demons shoulder.

My durandal cuts straight through the demon.

The slow rabbit has been defeated in a single blow.

Green smoke starts coming from the demons body, and the whole body begins to melt.

When the smoke stops, all that's left on the ground is a small white fur.

It is the fur of the slow rabbit.

No wonder.

The village mayor said it would drop fur.

I pick up the fur, and go back to where I left the copper sword.

The durandal feels like overkill, but I'll hunt another two slow rabbits with it.

It's possible the one I just killed was weaker than normal.

I leave the fur next to the copper sword, and continue on.

Using the durandal on the next two slow rabbits also felt like overkill.

It killed them in one strike each.

I now have 3 pieces of fur.

Should I try using the copper sword?

I reset my stat points again. Instead of weapon skill 6 I put the points into 10x bonus experience. My bonus skill point is at 0, the point I spent earlier is still in Meteor Crash.

I attacked the next slow rabbit with the copper sword.

I launch a splendid preemptive attack at the shoulder area.

Oh?

The sword does not penetrate at all.

Far from it, the sword barely did a thing.

I launch a second slash that goes as bad as the first.

It feels more like I'm just taunting it than cutting it.

The slow rabbit attacks me.

Danger!

Somehow I managed to avoid it.

In return I land another blow.

It's useless, there's no sign that I even did anything.

Even so, little by little the damage will still add up.

I continue attacking with the sword, while being cautious of it's attacks.

The only good thing is that it's movements are not quick.

Well, it's a slow rabbit.

As I think that, it jumps at me.

I move my head, but could not avoid it with my body.

Urgh.

There is a huge shock to my body.

This is dangerous, it could tear my whole body to pieces.

I strike with the sword repeatedly.

The slow rabbit dodges with it's head.

It manages to partially avoid it, but is still struck in the shoulder. It's starting to feel like I'm doing damage now.

The slow rabbit jumps at me again.

This time I read the attack and manage to avoid it. I get in a blow as it flies past on my right.

Is it still not enough?

I strike it again & again.

It sees a chance to attack and jumps again.

Urgh.

I was focusing too much on attacking and not on defense.

This is bad. If I'm hit much more I might die.

I avoid the next attack & regain my balance.

I knock it's head back, and strike a blow to it's belly with my sword.

The sword sliced in a bit, there is starting to be less resistance.

Haven't you died yet?

I strike it. I strike it. I strike it.

When I hit it a fourth time it finally falls to the ground.

It becomes smoke and disappears. Rabbit fur is left again.

“Phew.”

While gasping for breath, I let out a sigh of relief.

My whole body is painful. Breathing is hard work.

That was dangerous.

There was a big difference between the durandal and the copper sword.

Or was this slow rabbit really strong?

That reminds me, the slow rabbit had a level.

I didn’t check it. Wasn’t it Lv1?

I’ll do future battles using the durandal.

I’m not sure how many attacks it took with the copper sword.

The durandal has the HP absorption skill.

Defeating enemies with it recovers my HP.

I place the fur and the copper sword with the other furs, and take the durandal.

Slow rabbit Lv1.

It was.

I swing the durandal as I run at it.

The slow rabbit disappears, and a fur appears.

The pain in my body eased a bit.

I think I’ve absorbed some HP, it’s not a placebo effect.

If I hunt one or two more I should have a complete recovery.

I return to the copper sword and leave the fur there, and then I go hunting again.

Slow rabbit Lv1.

So, it’s Lv1 too.

The slow rabbit will try to run from people, but if they get into a fight they fight well.

However, if I launch a preemptive strike, it’s an easy win with the durandal because I can kill it with one blow.

The preemptive strike decides it, it’s killed in one shot.

The slow rabbit becomes smoke and fades away.

This time there is an item that is not a fur.

Rabbit’s meat.

Is this rabbits meat?

Should I give it to the village chief for tonight’s dinner?

I’ll get the furs and return to the village.

Status check!

Kaga Michio: Male, 17 years old.
Villager Lv3
Hero Lv1
Thief Lv3
Equipment: durandal, sandals.

Oh, I’ve leveled up!

Chapter 8 - Farming in the afternoon.

When I kill demons, my experience points go up.

Earning experience from hunting demons is the best way to raise my level.

My bonus points have increased by 1 for some reason, maybe because my level increased.

I have a feeling my bonus points increased when I hit Lv2 also.

It will be a great system if my bonus points increase every time I gain a level.

I wonder how people without the character reset skill use them.

It would be a hard decision.

Something you are stuck with for life.

That would be truly cruel.

Anyway, I've worked out how to raise my level.

The next problem is how to increase my jobs.

I have the Villager job from the beginning.

The thief job I picked up somehow.

Hero might be because I protected the village from a thief.

The other jobs I've seen currently are village chief, merchant & farmer.

I'm not sure how I can become a village chief, maybe if I do the things a village chief does.

Or maybe only NPC's can become one.

Maybe if you do a good job you replace the existing village chief.

I can possibly ask the merchant how to become a merchant.

But what about a farmer?

Now that I think about it, I got the thief job when I stole the sandals.

Maybe farmer is the same as thief? I just have to do some work on a farm to get it.

Farming.

Maybe I can do it in the village?

I put away the durandal & return to the village.

I was thinking maybe I should try using my copper sword, and maybe putting up to 5 points into weapons.

However, if I don't kill stuff in one strike I might get attacked.

The HP absorption of the durandal is necessary to recover.

Maybe the right idea is to alternate swords?

The copper sword is hanging at my waist, my right hand has the five rabbit furs, and I have the rabbit meat in my left hand.

The rabbit fur is quite small. How many will I need if I want to make a fur coat?

Maybe 100-200 pieces, or more.

They probably don't sell well.

Well, it's a demon that even a beginner can hunt if they have a durandal.

Ah, Mr durandal.

I enter the back of the village from the forest, and return to the village chief's house.

"Please use this with dinner."

I give the village chief the rabbit meat.

“I can have this?”

“Yes, I thought it might help with dinner.”

“Certainly. This…. is rabbit meat!”

The village chief was surprised.

Even though he was the one who told me about rabbit meat dropping.

“It dropped by chance.”

“You need to kill around ten slow rabbits to get rabbit meat.”

“Hmmm”

So the drop rate is 10%?

“Michio, the gods must love you if this dropped on your first try.”

“No, I didn’t get it from the first one.”

I lift my right hand.

“No way……”

The village chief swallows his saliva.

Why is he surprised?

He told me it would be an easy victory.

“You said it isn’t a strong demon.”

“I knew you could defeat it, but this many when only half a day has passed…”

“That’s really quick?”

The sun is still high in the sky, there is plenty of time before sunset.

“Many villagers are needed to fight a slow rabbit, and it’s a long fight before they can finally defeat it.”

“I see.”

I did have a hard time while using the copper sword.

But the durandal killed it in a single blow.

“It even takes a long while to recover physical strength after fighting one. Treatment is also needed if there are wounded. They are not normally hunted in succession.”

“Ahh.”

If they are using copper swords, they will probably be hit by the jump attack. Is the recovery of physical strength even necessary after receiving attacks?

For me, the HP absorption of durandal also recovers physical strength.

“You’re too strong Michio! People who can kill slow rabbits on their own in such a short time don’t normally come to this village.”

“Is that so?”

The villagers may think I am amazing.

That’s fine.

I don’t feel bad if they think I am strong.

“If you can, please sell the furs to the merchant. We sew them up in this village, even though we can’t hunt many.”

“Ok, I’ll do that.”

Since the slow rabbit lives near here, it might be a specialty of this village.

I wonder if I’d get more selling it elsewhere?

“Thanks, the merchants house is three houses along.”

“Ok, I’ll head over there.”

“Wait a minute.”

When I try to leave the village chief asks me to wait.

“××××××××××”

“××××××××××”

The village chief calls out, and a woman who seems to be his wife comes out carrying something.

“Please use this bag.”

“Oh, thank you.”

The village chief passes the bag to me.

It’s a small bag like a pouch, that has a drawstring to pull it closed.

I put the rabbit furs into the bag.

“Then, I’ll be off now.”

I head to the merchants place, three houses along.

I did not hear if it’s right or left.

“Maybe that place?”

There is a house where the entrance is wide open. Maybe it’s a shop? It doesn’t really look like one.

Should I equip the negotiations skill?

I used my character reset skill.

I uncheck Meteor crash, and place the check next to negotiations.

It causes a rise of 10% is sale prices.

This pattern again? (TN, I’m not sure about the pattern, the details on stat resets are very hard to figure out from MT’s).

I am able to spend 64 points.

The sale price went up. 15, 20, 25 and barely scraped in to 30%.

“Excuse me.”

I called out, and entered the house I thought was the merchants.

“It’s Michio, I’d like to do some business.”

The merchant from earlier comes out.

“What do you sell here?”

“This is the only shop in the village, I mainly take orders, and aquire the items from the city.”

There is no merchandise?

It seems quite pitiful.

Is this civilizations level like this?

“There is no shop with items?”

“….merchants who always have stock on hand…. I think slave dealers are like that.”

The merchant sounded a bit suspicious.

It’s expected that slaves can’t just be obtained when required.

So a slave trader always has some stock on hand. Other stores just have stock on demand.

By chance, did it seem like I came to buy the slave?

“That sounds strange to me, though I’m from the country.”

I quickly made something up.

“I don’t think there are stores like that in the country.”

“There aren’t, I heard someone say there were shops like that in towns.”

“Is that so? In the town of Vale there is no such thing. Maybe bigger towns have armor & weapon stores like that.”

“Since I’m from the country, it might have just been a made up story. Don’t worry about it, I actually came here to show you these rabbit

furs.”

I changed the subject.

“It’s rabbits fur?”

“Yes, and the village chief suggested I sell them here.”

I take the furs out of the drawstring bag.

“These… are quite good quality.”

There are five of them.

I probably don’t need to say I just hunted them.

“Will you buy them?”

“The market price for furs is 20 nars each.”

“Hmmm.”

I don’t understand the value, even if he says 20 nars.

“I will give you 130 nars for them all.”

20 nars each for five furs should be 100 nars, and it wonderfully became 130 nars.

How did that happen?

I won’t complain if he’s paying well.

“That is good.”

“Here.”

The merchant places many copper coins and a white coin on the table.

Is the white coin a silver coin? Is the silver coin worth 100 nars?

…..26, 28, 30. I have received it.”

I count out 30 copper coins.

I put the small change into the drawstring bag that held the furs.

The merchant put away the rabbit furs.

“We have the kyupiko fruit growing in our vegetable garden, I’d like to give you some as thanks for this trade.”

“Kyupiko?”

“Yes, it’s something I’ve grown with some good quality seedlings that I think could become a specialty product of our village.”

It was something I had never heard of.

Maybe only people of this world are familiar with it?

“I see.”

“Wait here a minute please.”

“Could I have a look at where the kyupiko comes from?”

The merchant stops.

This could be a chance for some farming labor.

“You want to see it Michio?”

“Since I am from the country it sounds interesting.”

“Ok, then lets head out to the vegetable garden together.

The merchant and I went outside.

“Does everyone have a vegetable garden?”

“Yes, everyone in the village maintains small vegetable gardens.”

The merchant and I chat while we walk.

Information gathering is always useful.

“I thought there were farmers in this village?”

“Yes, there is a man who is a member of the farmers guild managing a field just outside of town.”

“Farmers guild….”

Is there such a thing?

“All farmers around here belong to the farmers guild.”

I don’t quite understand it, but it seems to be serious.

Even if I do farming work, is it useless?

“Oh, and what about becoming a merchant?”

I secretly used my judgement skill to check the merchants title.

The judgement skill is very convenient.

“I also belong to the merchants guild.”

So I probably have to join the farmers guild to become a farmer, and the merchants guild to become a merchant.

“So, if I want to become a merchant then I have to join the guild?”

“Are you interested in becoming a merchant Michio?”

“No, I’m just wondering about it.”

I quickly deny it.

“I thought you would already be in a guild?”

“I haven’t joined one yet.”

I act embarrassed.

“Your not an adventurer? I thought you would be part of the adventurers guild?”

“I’m not an adventurer yet.”

So there is one.

There is such thing as an adventurers guild.

“Your really not part of a guild?”

I guess it was unexpected.

“Well…”

“You might already know, but you can only join one guild, and there are severe restrictions on leaving that guild.”

“Oh.”

So it’s like that?

“Joining the merchants guild is quite easy.”

“I just need to register with it?”

“Yes, and you can’t become one if you don’t get their approval.”

“I understand.”

I said I understand, but I don’t really.

It sounds a bit like a strange procedure.

“Also, there is a wealthy merchant guild. You can’t get into it unless you have alot of experience.”

“Oh.”

I don’t understand it well, but I guess a wealthy merchant is a higher ranked merchant?

I toss in words of agreement as we head to the vegetable garden.

At the edge of the village there are fields spread out.

“This is our vegetable garden.”

“Oh, it’s big!”

It’s strange to call such a good sized area a vegetable garden. There are several kinds of different plants in it.

The plants are the same as those on earth.

There’s a carrot!

There is a plant about a meter high with red carrots hanging from it.

Wait. Do carrots really grow this way?

Hmmmm.

Was the carrot a type of fruit?

“That one is the kyupiko.”

The merchant tells me as he approaches the carrot.

“Oh.”

So it’s not a carrot, it’s a kyupiko?

A carrot is a root. It does not grow this way.

“When it becomes red it is ready to eat, try it.”

“It’s fine to pick off by hand?”

The merchant nods, so I pick one.

“….how is it?”

After picking two, the merchant asks me this with uneasiness.

Did you say you wanted to make this a specialty product?

“Carrots don’t grow around here?”

“Ginseng? You can probably find that in the forest.”

There doesn’t seem to be carrots in this world.

It doesn’t matter, because it is not a food I favor.

It should be fine to eat, it feels slightly hard.

“It resembles a vegetable from where I lived.”

“Oh.”

The merchant watches me expectantly.

“It is bearing fruit well.”

“How is the taste?”

Have you tried it?

I make up my mind, and bite into the thing that looks like a carrot.

Oh!

It’s quite tasty.

Yes, the taste is not bad at all.

Like a slightly sour cherry.

But with the appearance of a carrot.

The difference gives a strange feeling.

“It has a good taste and should sell well.”

“You think so? Thank you.”

The merchant thanks me with a relieved expression.

The day is coming to an end.

I decide to hurry back.

On the way back, I open my character settings and check my jobs.

Farmer Lv1

Effect: small strength rise.

It’s there.

It was obtained unexpectedly easily.

I got the farmer job from harvesting fruit.

I can set it as my first job.

I could also switch Hero to my first job, but I don’t think there is any point.

Since I can only have three active jobs, I need to disable one.

Should I choose the slight stamina rise from villager, or the small strength rise from farmer?

If I move stat points out of bonus experience, I can force a 4th job to

be set.

My body felt extremely light while fighting the slow rabbit, and I think that was the effect of job bonuses overlapping.

Though it's possible that only the strongest of two similar bonuses is active.

Even so, it should still be good to learn more jobs.

The problem is experience.

If I set 4 active jobs, my experience gain might get worse.

Thief is currently set to my third job, and has risen to Lv3, so all active jobs might take a share of my experience.

So if I get a fourth job, will all of them only get a quarter of my experience?

If experience is divided, it will be harder to raise levels.

But what about if it's not divided?

More jobs would be better after all.

Three jobs would be three times more experience, and for jobs would be four times more.

This would make my bonus experience stat even more efficient.

I replace villager Lv3 with farmer Lv1 as my first job.

Kaga Michio: Male, 17 years old.

Farmer Lv1

Hero Lv1

Thief Lv3

Equippment: copper sword, sandals.

Do the first & third job positions have any differences?

Should I switch the position of the higher level Thief Lv3 with the first

job?

Though people don't really like thieves, so hopefully this job is hidden a bit if it's in the lowest position.

When I get back to the village chiefs house, dinner had just finished being prepared.

Dinner was a stew made from the rabbits meat, with some kind of stir-fry made with fish as the main dish.

Both are really delicious.

It seems the dishes in this world are of quite a good standard.

Dinner left me quite satisfied, so I went to bed early to be ready for tomorrow.

Hmmm, Tirihi?

The life of a villager Lv25.

0 years old.

Born in a country village.

Parents are both villagers, and there are three older brothers.

10 years old.

Since I am not the first son, I think I should probably leave the house some time in the future.

I don't really want to become a soldier. but there is not many job options around here. I want to live freely. Hopefully I can become an adventurer.

12 years old.

There is a demon subjugation near the village, so I join in.

17 years old.

I become the leader of the town guard.

I guard merchants that travel out of town, and I learn a lot about the outside world.

18 years old.

A strong demon attacked the town.

I lead the fight, but a lot of villagers die, and surrounding fields are destroyed.

This causes a famine, and disease strikes some of the weakened villagers.

19 years old.

My family died from illness, so I left the village & headed to a town.

I lower my head to an adventurer I knew and am allowed to join a party. I changed my job to explorer. The treatment isn't good.

33 years old.

I fall in love with Tirihi(17 years old).

However, I am employed as an explorer, and I can't approach her.

35 years old.

I work hard on raising my level, and make it to Lv50

I switched jobs to adventurer, and joined the adventurers guild.

I leave the party and become independent. Tirihi is now 19 years old and I try to approach her.

Life felt good. I also got a rapier.

37 years old.

I married Tirihi (21 years old).

I have trouble as an adventurer. Since I was a low ranked party member for years, my equipment isn't good. I don't have good contacts either. I exist just hanging around the adventurers guild.

40 years old.

I have bad luck, and suffer an injury.

The adventurers guild tries to make me work, even with my injury. The let me leave the guild, with the condition that I abandon the job of adventurer, and return to being a villager.

Tirihi & I return to my home town and live together.

41 years old.

We have a son.

I help the village hunt demons. Even without the adventurer job, I am still quite skilled with a sword.

I spend my days fighting demons for the village, and looking after my wife & child who I love.

47 years old.

I fight with a thief who attacked the village, and I die in battle

Chapter 9 - Another paths end, according to a special volume.

The hero’s delusion.

This is another path, where Tirihi visited his bed during the night.

It’s totally a delusion, it has no relevance to the main story.

There is no problem if you continue reading the story without reading this chapter.

Future events will be different to this, including characters and settings. It does have heroines appear that have not yet been introduced.

Even though the series title is “Harem”, there is no heroine until chapter 11.

Well, if you include this chapter, the first heroine will not appear until chapter 12.

I will try to write more quickly.

Please don’t throw things at me.

“Is there something in this village Master?”

Miria asks with her cat ears raised.

“No, there is probably nothing.”
“There doesn’t seem to be any kind of resort here either.”

Sherry looks around restlessly also.
Is it from curiosity rather than caution?

“It’s just somewhere I came a long time ago.”

I put my hand on her head.

I enter the village with them.

It's been a long while, and things change over time, but this village has hardly changed at all and feels quite nostalgic.
There should be a barn just to the right as I enter the village.

Bikka. 41 year old male. Merchant Lv14.

There is a man in front of the barn.
It's a face that I remember.
His level hasn't gone up much over ten years though.

"××××××××××"

He says something, but as usual I don't understand it.

"××××××××××"
"××××××××××"

Roxanne responds, and the merchant gives a small bow and heads into the village.
He should have been able to speak even in the brahim language.

"Master, do you have some business to do here?"
"Yes, please buy some Kyupiko from the merchant."

I request Roxanne.

Roxanne takes Miria and leaves. I head towards the barn.
There is one horse in the barn.

"It's a barn."

Sherry says as she comes up beside me.

"Master, why are we at the barn?"
"Hmm, I wonder why I came here."

I look over to Vesta who is standing at my left, then up at the roof of the barn.
I didn't want to say I came here because I was feeling a bit homesick.

"Huh?"

Vesta answers with suspicion, and I give her back a light pat.

Ten years ago this barn is the first place I appeared when I came to this world.
My journey started here.
It's hard to remember if it looks exactly the same as it did a decade ago.

The merchant was here, so this barn probably belongs to him.

That's probably it.
There probably aren't many horses in this village, just one to pull a wagon.
The merchant has a wagon, so this horse is probably his, and the barn with the horse in it must be his too.
So, those Sandals belonged to the merchant.

"Do you remember me?"

I pat the horse as I speak to it.
It's possible that it's a different horse though since ten years have passed.

If it's the same horse from that time, then it's the first living thing I saw when I came to this world.

"Master, I got them."

Miria comes from the other side of the road.
She has red fruit in both hands.

"You did?"
"Yes Master."

Miria passes two kyupiko to me, and then goes back the way she came.
Roxanne comes from the other side as well.

"Hurry up Nee-san!"
"Ok."

Miria runs to Roxanne and pulls her by the hands.
Roxanne starts running along.

I handed the fruit that looks like a carrot to Sherry and Vesta.
I wait for Roxanne.

“You spoke to him?”
“Yes master, it seems this is a specialty of this village.”
“Really?”

The merchant seems to have succeeded in his cultivation.

“Master, here you go.”

Roxanne takes a kyupiko from her bag with a smile and passes it to me.
This smile hasn’t changed over ten years.
I accept the kyupiko from Roxanne.
I take another and pass one to Rutina.

“Thank you Master.”

Rutina bows her head. Her long elven ears sticking from her pretty blonde hair are beautiful.
While looking at her with eyes of admiration, I noticed Miria looking at me expectantly.
I’ve eaten one before though.

I bite into the kyupiko.

Yes, kyupiko.
Hmm, was the taste like a cherry?
It’s hard to remember what a cherry tastes like.

“It’s delicious.”
“Ah, that’s good.”

I put my hand on Miria’s head. It’s nice being allowed to pat a cat girl.
Patting feels really good.

I looked at the villages vegetable garden.
What kind of plant was the kyupiko?

There’s a small boy working in the vegetable garden.
He’s admirable looking with jet-black hair.

… a black haired boy?

He keeps disappearing and reappearing as he works behind chest height crops.

There are a lot of blonde and brown haired people around here.
Black hair is a minority.
Was there anyone with black hair in this village?

With a strange feeling in my chest, I use judgement.

Mio. 9 years old male. Villager Lv1.

…

Mio and Michio.

Ok.
It's like that.

It probably is.
Is that right?
Even though he hasn't inherited the family name?

Is this possibly my child?

"Nyaa…"

I'm still patting Miria, and she's letting her voice out a bit.
She's fully satisfied with the sweetness of the fruit and her ears being patted.

"Roxanne, can you interpret?"
"Yes Master."

I go to the vegetable garden.

"Do you have a moment?"
"××××××××××"

After Roxanne speaks, the boy comes out of the vegetable garden.
That face… is it similar?

"What are you growing?"

“××××××××××”
“××××××××××”

“The Kyupiko.”

That’s what it looks like.
The red fruit.

“How are your parents?”
“××××××××××”
“××××××××××”
“My mother is doing well, but father died before I was born.”

Really?
So that’s how it is.

I pull a sword out of the item box.

Scimitar of Anger. 5 x attack power, HP absorption.

It’s an old sword that I no longer use.
It’s quite good because of it’s passive skills.

“Do you do what your mother tells you to do properly?”
“××××××××××”

After Roxanne interprets, the boy nods.

“I have a feeling that I knew your father.”
“××××××××××”
“I will give this sword to you, and if your mother thinks it’s ok then you can use it. Make sure to protect your mother.”
“××××××××××”

The boy watches the sword.
He seems to be extremely interested.

“Don’t decline.”
“××××××××××”

I gave him some prompting.

“When you use this sword you may think you have become strong, but it is this sword that is strong. You are not strong, don’t even

forget that.”
“××××××××××”

I give a warning before I release the sword.
Would he listen to it?
It will embarrass me if he leaves his mother because of this and becomes an adventurer, bit it’s his life.

I wait until Roxanne finishes interpreting and then finally release it.

“××××××××××”
“Thank you”

The boy bows greatly, and then runs away with the sword held like an important treasure.

Maybe his mother, Tirihi, is in their house.

“Master, that’s the old sword that I treasured.”
“Sorry, Roxanne, it’s a sword which was mine first.”
“I don’t mind, it’s just the first sword I received from Master.”

Roxanne shows a smile as she remembers the old days.
It’s beautiful whenever I see it.
Even after ten years it’s a smile I never get tired of seeing.

“Let’s go.”

I’ll probably come to this village again.
Or, maybe not.

With the village behind me, I use movement magic.
There are still fights in our future.
Please look forward to more work from Sogano Shachi.
(This series is still continuing)

Chapter 10 - Road

That night, Tirihi did not come to my room.

…I should have realized.

Of course I should have realized.

Though it would have made for a delicious story.

Maybe this is as far as I can get with my looks.

Or maybe she didn't come because she doesn't know where I'm staying?

It was lonely sleeping on my own, and I wake up in the village chiefs house in a room with a dirt floor.

I think I was dreaming about something, but I can't remember it.

I wake up expecting to see my apartment in Tokyo, but that's impossible.

Tirihi didn't come either, this is the worst way to wake up.

I sigh as I lay there on the bed.

The bed is shabby, made only of a mat & blanket on a board.

Is this how you treat someone well? I'm not sure yet since I don't know what the standards are like in this world.

Part of me thought this world might be virtual reality, but that idea was totally shattered when I went to the toilet.

If my body was lying in a hospital, that would have been great.

I'd rather not wake up.

But this is a real world, and I'm living here.

"Mmmm"

I stretch my arms.

“Excuse me.”

I hear the village chiefs voice.

“Village chief?”

“Are you up already? It’s nearly time to depart.”

“Ok”

I leave the room with my luggage.

I call it luggage, but it’s really only a copper sword, and a drawstring bag. In the bag I have the large sum of 130 nars, and the thieves intelligence card.

That is everything I own.

“Good morning.”

“Yes, good morning.”

“Here are your cloths from yesterday.”

“Was there a jersey?”

I forgot.

The copper sword and drawstring bag are not everything I own.

I find the jersey on the stand near the front entrance.

It’s still dark in the entrance, but after opening the front door I see the first light of dawn appearing.

I wear the cloths I received instead of the jersey, but I take it with me.

“Your cloths are made from some very unusual cloth, they must be quite valuable.”

“No, they are not very valuable.”

The jersey was quite cheap.

Oh, polyester would not exist in this world.

“You can use this bag if you want.”

The village chief offers me a large bag.

There is a shoulder string on it.

It’s a rucksack.

“Hou”

“I’ve put breakfast in it. Please eat it in the wagon.”

“I’ll do that.”

I am grateful for the rucksack & breakfast.

I put the jersey & drawstring bag in to the rucksack with the breakfast.

Breakfast is wrapped up, but feels like a loaf of bread. I shouldn’t hope for something luxurious.

“Also, here is a reward for saving the village.”

The village chief gives me a drawstring bag, the same as the one I got yesterday.

“Oh?”

Casually I looked in the bag & saw coins inside.

In the low level of light I can see some bright yellow. Are they gold coins? There’s about ten of them.

“Sorry it isn’t much.”

“No, I’m very grateful for this.”

“This is the largest reward we can manage.”

After thinking a little, I accept it.

There is no downsides to taking it.

Since it was offered to me, there shouldn't be any grudges if I accept it.

There is no benefit in declining.

I don't want to stand out, and I don't want a reputation of being a hero who works for free.

There isn't any reason for me to show favoritism for this village either.

…and Tirihi did not show up.

I put the rucksack filled with all my luggage over my shoulder.

The village chief accompanies me outside.

We head towards the edge of the village & find the merchant there preparing the wagon.

"Good morning."

"Good morning."

I exchange greetings with the merchant.

"I'll leave as soon as it gets light, Could you sit next to the coachman's seat?"

"Sure."

I got in the wagon.

It shakes a bit.

The cargo is the thieves accessories, Tirihi's two swords, and a cage similar to a kennel.

Tirihi seems to not want to sell her dagger.

The cage is fully enclosed on three sides, and the fourth side has a lattice covering.

As I was wondering about it, a man was brought out & placed into the cage.

It’s the thief from yesterday.

“This man will be taken to Vale & sold to a slave trader.”

The village chief explains.

“Oh.”

“Half of the sale price will go to you Michio.”

“We got the right accessory back, the family can take all the money.”

“No, if we pass the family all the money then they can buy him straight back & this is no longer a punishment. Please accept your share.”

Ah.

That makes sense.

As a stranger I should not object to the law of the village.

I give a nod of agreement.

“××××××××××”

“××××××××××”

A man comes and exchanges some words with the burglar.

A young girl runs to her father without being told.

Even though I don’t understand what is said, I can understand the atmosphere.

This mans family speak to him with sadness.

“It’s become light enough, so let’s be off.”

The merchant climbs up beside me.

He flicks the reins & the horse starts moving.

The sun isn’t fully up yet, but this is light enough for the stretch near the village.

“Thank you for your help.”

“No, thank you for saving our village.”

The village chief & I say our farewells.

The wagon is now leaving the village.

I may never return here, but this will always be my first village.

I look back towards it and take one last look to etch into my memory.

A tarp covers the back of the wagon.

The man who became a slave is quietly behaving himself.

“Is the journey safe?”

I ask the merchant.

“The road to Vale has regular demon subjugation to maintain it.”

“Oh.”

“There is no real danger.”

Things start getting lighter, and the wagon raises speed a bit.

The wagon shakes with a rattling sound.

Is the wagon bad, or is the road bad? Probably both.

There is a forest of broad leafed trees on either side of the road.

The trees are not very high along the road, though I’m not sure about further into the forest.

However it doesn’t seem to be a very deep forest.

There is no scenery to enjoy because of the forest.

Scenery might take my mind off the shaking.

I endure the shaking in silence.

I eat the bread for breakfast while getting shaken around.

There is nothing to do, so I just stare forwards.

Well.

It’s not bad to have free time.

But if I don’t change my position every now & then my butt gets painful.

I see a shadow out front.

It seems to be something.

Slow Rabbit Lv1

“There’s a slow rabbit ahead.”

“You’ve seen them before?”

“I hunted some yesterday.”

It’s because of the judgement skill that I know it’s a slow rabbit.

It’s still quite far away though, so I can’t see it well yet.

“I see it, it isn’t very dangerous, but I’ll slow down a bit.”

“Hmmm.”

The wagon approaches the slow rabbit, and then passes by it’s side.

I want to attack it, but it’s better to arrive at Vale quicker.

“We’ve passed it.”

As we move on, I see something else in the distance.

I’m not sure what it is yet at this distance.

Gumi slime Lv1

Do they normally have this many demons?

“It’s a Gumi slime.”

“A Gumi Slime?”

The merchant slows down the speed of the wagon.

“What’s wrong?”

“Gumi slimes attack when they see people, and they are hard to damage because of their soft bodies.”

“Is that so? No problem.”

It should be fine with my durandal.

“It’s the most formidable demon around here. It can melt your body with it’s slime. Villagers need to run if they see it.”

The merchant explains how fearsome the Gumi slime is.

Is it that dangerous?

It should be fine if I don’t make any mistakes since it’s Lv1.

I said there was no problem, so I should do it.

I’ll probably have to fight one sooner or later anyway.

“Don’t worry, keep going.”

I tell the merchant.

“Ok.”

The merchant doesn’t stop the wagon.

I open my character stats.

The two bonus points I thought I had were gone.

I’m not sure why, but the demon is priority now so I’ll think about it later.

I cancel the 30% bonus sale price, and put the points into weapons 6.

Also, the Hero job has a skill for things I can’t defeat with my durandal that I can try.

I confirm my settings.

Skill: Overwhelming!

I’m not sure of it’s effects.

“Overwhelming?”

An incantation appears in my head.

Should I recite this?

“What should I do.”

“It’s fine, just keep moving forward.”

“It’s straight ahead.”

The merchant does as I say, but I can see he’s scared.

I take off the rucksack, and put it and the copper sword at my feet. I take the durandal out of it’s sheath, and hang the sheath at my waist.

As the wagon approaches, the Gumi slime notices us, and moves towards us.

“Ok, stop.”

“Ok!”

As the speed of the cart decreases, I jump down from my seat.

I run past the side of the horse to the front of the Gumi slime. I swing the durandal sideways towards the left. It tears right through the Gumi slime.

It seems I can’t finish it in one blow.

“By the deliverance of ei…. urgh”

I tried to recite an incantation, but the Gumi slime jumped at me. I twisted my body in a hurry, and somehow managed to avoid it.

Seems it’s nearly impossible to do an incantation while fighting.

The Gumi slime jumps again, but I dodge it well because I’m

watching it's movements this time.

I swing the durandal down onto where the Gumi slime landed. I strike it from it's head to it's lower body… though I'm not sure if it's got a head. If I'm hit by it that will be the end of me.

The Gumi slime slops onto the ground. It becomes green smoke & starts to vanish.

When the green smoke is gone there is something white on the ground.

Slime starch.

I'm not quite sure what this dropped item is.

But I'll take it anyway.

To defeat a Gumi slime it seems I have to hit it with the durandal twice.

It's difficult to chant a skill during combat, my concentration isn't good enough. Maybe I should only use them for pre-emptive strikes?

How do I use a skill when I'm in a pinch?

I will need to train to do it.

As I'm thinking about the fight, the merchant brings the wagon up.

"You defeated it."

"Yes."

"…and in such a short time… amazing."

"I guess."

It's because of the durandal that it's two shots.

I don't know how many strikes it would take with the copper sword, and it's likely that I'd lose.

"Michio, are you a wizard?"

The merchant asks.

“Even if it looked like that, I used my sword.”

“Yes, you used your sword the other day too.”

I defeated the thief without magic.

But it would be useful.

“That’s right.”

I climb back onto the wagon.

Magic definitely exists in this world. My character stats indicate it.

I think wizards probably exist too, but I could be wrong.

“Is that a Slime starch?”

“Yes.”

“Do you want it? I could buy it from you as a reward for defending the wagon.”

I hurriedly pulled up my character stats.

I removed my points from weapons 6, and put them back into 30% selling bonus price.

I finished adjusting my stats, and then hid the durandal so the merchant couldn’t see it.

I hope he doesn’t think I’m strange.

“Thank you, that would be good.”

I pass the Slime starch to the merchant.

Was I quick enough?

“Slime starch can become alcohol. It ferments when you dissolve it in water. It’s called

Slime sake, and there are many people who like it.

“Oh.”

“The normal price is 80 nars, but I’ll increase that tenfold since you defended the wagon. I’ll give you 1040 nars for it.”

“Thank you very much, I’ll accept it.”。

Tenfold should have been 800, but it’s 1040.

The 30% selling bonus seems to be working.

The merchant gives me 10 silver coins, and 40 copper coins.

I put it in the drawstring bag, and then put the rucksack back over my shoulder.

“Are there wizards around here?”

I was curious, so I asked about it.

“I don’t know. To become a wizard you have to drink some special medicine from 5 years of age. Mostly only children of nobles and super wealthy families can become wizards. I have not heard of any around here.”

“I see.”

So there is that sort of restriction on becoming a wizard.

So I can’t become one?

Or….

It’s something I can think about later.

I start thinking about bonus points while getting bounced around by the wagon.

I thought my bonus points had increased, but they weren’t there.

I’ve got 63 points in bonus sale price.

15 points in decreasing experience needed.

5 points in bonus experience.

That’s 93 total.

3 points in my third job, so that’s 96.

Judgement, job settings, and character reset brings it up to 99.

That’s what I had in the beginning, so it hasn’t increased.

It makes sense after I add it all up.

When my Villager level went up, I gained bonus points.

I’ve removed my Villager Lv3 job and replaced it with Farmer Lv1. This must be why my bonus points are the same as when I started.

To test it out, I switch my first job back to Villager Lv3.

When I do a character reset…..

There are 2 more bonus points.

Chapter 11 - Town of Vale

The wagon kept advancing as the question about bonus points was solved.
The woods parted suddenly and a castle wall can be seen ahead.

“Is that the town of vale?”
“Yes”
“It is very big.”

I think the length of one side of the walls might be one kilometer.
It can’t compare to a modern Japanese city, however given the cost to build the walls it would be quite a city.
There are fields outside the walls, probably maintained by residents of Vale.
I could not see them until the forest stopped.

The sun isn’t even halfway across the sky yet.
If I consider the time to hunt the Gumi slime along with the travel time, is it about 3 hours?
Probably, the length of one hour here is the same as one hour from earth.

“It is the best city around here.”

The merchant proudly speaks.
Several wagons had gathered in the surroundings of the city.
The merchants wagon passes by them as it approaches the city.

Even though there is a castle gate, there is no guard.
There doesn’t appear to be any inspections carried out either.

“Can you freely enter the town?”
“Of course, because of movement magic even the walls are not that high.”

Movement magic. Are there these kind of things?
If you can move with magic, I guess it would be pointless to have inspections at the gate.

Is that it?
Then what is the point of the castle walls?
If people can move around with magic, why did we come to Vale by wagon?のでは。

“Really?”

It’s strange, but there is probably a reason.
Is the castle wall to protect against demons?
We probably came by wagon because we can’t use movement magic.

The wagon entered into the town.

“First stop is the slave dealers, next is the knights headquarters, followed by the weapon and armor vendors. How does that sound to you?
“Good.”

The merchant tells me his plans while entering the town.

The wagon advanced into the town.
The road is wide, and paved with stone. The buildings on both sides are an amazing four stories high and covered with plaster.
It is a remarkable thing, especially for a civilization level that doesn’t even have a store.
There is plenty of people walking about, though I wouldn’t call it crowded.
It could be called a calm town.

I saw villagers, merchants, farmers, fighters, and swordsmen walking around.
I wonder if they all live in this city?

“The center of the city is just ahead, but we are heading to the right.”
“I understand.”

The wagon turns right onto another road.
“This area of town is a bit dangerous, don’t go onto the back roads.”
“I’ll be careful.”
There is a place that looks like it might be a brothel.

Shops to dazzle your senses.
There must be a demand on these things in this world.
The slums are nearby, are there gangs ruling these kinds of places in this world?

This needs to be investigated.
It's fine if I don't go there, but since I live in this world now it is important that I know what kind of danger there is.
If it is a place that is dangerous, I will have to learn about it.I should go for investigation.

I should investigate thoroughly.
It is investigation in a different world.
Even if you go to those kinds of places for investigation it is an excusable thing.

It is unavoidable if it's for investigation.
It's not right or wrong.

While thinking about it, the wagon turns right and then stops next to the second house along.
Is this the slave dealer? Red brick 3 stories. It looks like a common private house.

"Are you here for business?"

When the cart stops, A young man dashes out from in the house.
Merchant Lv3. Since his level is low he must still be an apprentice.

"I came to deliver a criminal who has been dropped to slave rank."

After hearing the words of the merchant, the man checks the cage.

"I accepted it, please enter the shop."

The merchant and I enter the shop.

"It will be better if I sell the slave."

I mention this to the merchant as we are lead to the back.
If it's me, there is a rise of 30 percent.

"Sure, please take this then."

The merchant passes me a letter.

“What’s this?”
“The letter of ownership from the village chief. ”

Was there such a thing?
I accept the letter as we are guided into a room.

I sit on a sofa, and after a short time a man comes out.

Alan: Male, 63 years old
Slave trader Lv44

Is there also a Slave trader job?
And this guy is the highest level I’ve seen so far, is he really skillful?
Or was the village i was in too far into the country to see many high level people?

“I am Alan, the master of this house.”
“I’m Michio.”
“I’m Bikka of the Somara village.”
“Please take a seat.”

After the greetings i sit down on the sofa.
The sofa is very comfortable .
He must be a rich person since he can afford slaves.

“The city seems to be quite busy today.”

The merchant began to talk.
It’s just a chat.

“Didn’t you know? A Maze was found two days ago.”
“Is it a labyrinth?”

Hmm. Is there a labyrinth?
Come to think of it , did I choose a setting where there is both fields and dungeons?
I devoted myself to silently collecting information.

“Didn’t you encounter demons near the town?”
“We encountered them twice, but it wasn’t that close to Vale.”
“It’s probably increasing the strength of other Labyrinths too.”

“Yes, we encountered a Gumi Slime today.”
“Wow, are you alright?”

The slave merchant asks with a worried look on his face.
奴隷商人が心配顔で問いかけてきた。

“Yes, Mishio here defeated it.”
“On his own?”
“Yes, Michio is also the person who helped the village against theives recently.”

I felt uncomfortable getting praised.
So i changed the topic.

“The man who tried to steal the thief’s equipment got his rank dropped to that of a slave in accordance with the rules of the village.”
“I understand.”
“This is the letter of ownership from the village chief.”
I take out the letter.
The Slave merchant accepts the letter.

“I’ll look it over.”
“We will hand over half of the sale price to Michio.”

The merchant Bikka explains to the slave trader while he reads the letter.

“I see.”
“How is it?”
“Everything is in order. The man has a healthy body and is in the prime of life, I think that about 30,000 nars should be the market price.”

I watched the merchant.
I don’t understand the market price.
The merchant nods slightly.

“I see. That will be fine.”
“Thank you.”
“Please pay half to me and the other half to Michio.”

The 30% bonus did not seem to work.
When it is a slave, maybe it does not work?

“Is this your first time here?”

The slave trader asks me.

“This is the first time I’ve been to this town.”
“Is that so. Are you an adventurer?”

It might happen.
Does my face look like that of an adventurer?
Or maybe adventurers wander around villages handling thieves?

“No, I’m not part of a guild either.”
“Then, are you thinking of buying a slave in future?”

Wait. What did you say?

“A slave… Buy… You can buy an adventurer?”

I worked out the story somehow.

“Yes, there are quite a few.”

I could buy a slave.
I didn’t even consider it for some reason.
Am I being influenced by my modern day Japanese common sense too much?

There are slaves in this world.
Because I sold a slave, I should be able to buy a slave.

If I buy a female slave, what kind of things can I ask her to do?
If I buy a female slave, will she…
If I buy a female slave…

“Really? It hasn’t been long since I’ve left my teacher, I was training in the mountains before this so I’m a bit ignorant on how things work.”

I use an excuse I was thinking about.
If I say I’m from the country and was training in the mountains then it’s a good excuse for why I don’t know things, and why I am so

strong.
Though the truth is I'm strong because of durandal.

"I see. You do look quite young, are you thinking of going to the Labyrinth near town?"
"Maybe, that might be good."

If there is dungeon, you go in.
If there is a hole, you stick it in. That's what it means to be a man.

"In that case, let's talk about it again another time."
"Sure, I'll come by again."

I've heard something good.

The slave dealer goes out of a room briefly, and returns with money.

"Here's 15,000 nars, its half of the money."
"Thank you."

The merchant receives his half first.
One gold coin and a lot of silver coins. Is 10,000 nars a gold coin?

"I look forward to future's dealings with you, your half is 19,500 nars."

The slave trader offers me the second plate of money.
One gold coin, and an amazing amount of silver coins.
Am I the only one that receives the 30% bonus?

I watch the merchant of the village for an instant, but seem to think nothing at all in particular.
About having been said that I bought a slave about the 30% up.

"Thank you."

Being able to buy a slave shocks me a bit.

How do I buy a slave?
Isn't it a crime to buy a slave?
No, that's just modern Japanese ethics.
I need to use this worlds ethics here.
I came to sell a slave because of the rules of the village, but now

that I've done that I guess it wouldn't be that strange if I bought one.

Though it feels strange to sell people as slaves.
It makes me feel a bit depressed.

Now I'm feeling bad, so I might try and run away.

"Well Michio, I look forward to seeing you again."

He seems to have remembered my name.
I guess it's not possible to run away.

Maybe that's good. I should come again.
I want to hear about the labyrinth.

The merchant and I leave the slave traders house.
After the merchant makes a U-turn in the wagon, I get in too.

After heading back the way we came a bit we then start heading towards the city center.

"Is that a market?"

There were stalls set up along both sides of the road.
Food and clothing on display, with people gathering around.

Soldier Lv41

Swordsman Lv47

Shinto priest Lv35

Cook Lv28

There's a lot of good jobs.
The people also seem to be of quite a high level.

Adventurer Lv13

There really is a job named adventurer too.

That building is the headquarters of the knight group.

As we head towards the middle of the city the merchant points to it.
Is it the center of the town? There is a large open plaza with a large

brick bell tower building to the left.

The wagon stops in front of the that building.
“××××××××××”
“××××××××××”

A knight comes out of the building and speaks to the merchant about something.

Knight Lv4

His level is low.
I guess he’s still an apprentice.

“Michio, show him the thief’s intelligence card.”

The merchant spoke.

“Okay.”

Oh, I see.
I didn’t know why we came here.
I can get reward money for the thief.

I take down a rucksack and open a drawstring purse bag and take the card out of the inside.
I handed it to the apprentice knight.

The merchant also hands two over, I assume from the thieves the villagers defeated.

I looked at the thief’s intelligence card, but nothing was written on it.
Can he get information from it?

“I will confirm the intelligence cards.”
“Yes, please do.”

The merchant stretches out an arm towards the Lv4 Knight.
The back of his hand is near the Knight’s face.

“Intentions of the soul, breath of wisdom, intelligence card, open!”

So the intelligence cards that need to be confirmed are ours?

Dangerous.
Will you confirm mine?

Do I really have an intelligence card?
If i don't, what happens?

The knight finishes confirming the card of the merchant.
The merchant lowers his arm. The knight watches me next.

Oh, I have no choice but to try.

There didn't seem to be a choice, so I held out my left hand.
I raised it in front of the knights face.

"Is this fine?"
"Intentions of the soul, breath of wisdom, intelligence card, open!"

An intelligence card came out from the back of my hand, despite me feeling anxious about it.
Now I'm anxious because it came out.
What will happen.

"…How is it?"

I'm worried because the knight is silent, so I ask about it.
The silence is scary.

"…You have a family name?…Odd. Your a free man. That's fine."

I seem to pass.
The knight went into the building.

I try to look at my intelligence card.

Kaga Michio: Male 17 years old, Villager, free man.

It was written as kanji with Arabic numerals.
It's probably unusual in this world to have a family name.
I seem to be a free man.
There are slaves, and there are free men, are there also nobles?

"What did he check?"
"Whether your job is a thief or not. If it was a thief I cannot hand over the reward. "

When the merchant responds, I freeze up for a second.
I have the job of thief.

My job written on the intelligence card is Villager it seems.
Is the first job shown as the main job?
Villager is good as the first job.

“Oh.”

I breathe out lightly.
It seems the intelligence card can’t be separated from the hand, even if pulled. After pushing it slightly, it disappeared back into my hand.
I wonder how it works.

“The thief’s card is being checked inside. We’ll know the result straight away.”
“How did we get the cards from the thieves?”
“Thirty minutes after a person dies, it comes out naturally.”

The merchant explains it.
You can’t take an intelligence card from someone still living.

One woman came out before long from the headquarters.

Radia Maxi Nantes Gozzeru: Female, 28 years old.
Knight Lv27
Equipment: Magical armor, Boots of acceleration.

Her level isn’t high, but she has equipment I haven’t seen before, and her name is complicated.
She is probably from a noble family.
She is beautiful with a well defined body. Her chest is not that big though.
She has blonde hair, tied together at the back.

” Are you the one who defeated the thief?”

She looks at me with curious eyes.

“Yes”
“They are from the band of thieves that control the slums in this

town. Some of them probably went out to plunder from villages. We are preparing bounty money for you. The other thieves did not have a bounty yet."

The Knight looked towards the merchant for an instant.

"I understand."

The two cards that the merchant gave them must have been useless.

The Lv4 Knight comes out of the headquarters.
He passes a white bag to the female knight.

"Here is the bounty money."

She tosses me the bag.

"Wow."

I quickly grabbed it.

"You should leave here quickly."

The female Knight finishes speaking, then hurries back into the headquarters.

Oh?
Is that all that happens?

It's a pity, since she is beautiful I should have at least given her my name.

"Thank you very much."

A merchant says, and we start to leave with the wagon.

Is this really all that happens?
Blunt.
Even though this is the knights headquarters, there is no discussion about the attack on the village?

No. I understand it.
I really understand it.

A person with an appearance like mine can only get this far when speaking to a beautiful woman.

A guy who is not popular on earth will not be popular here either.
Why would I be popular here when I wasn't on earth?
There is no reason.

"Is the weapon shop next?"

I check with the merchant in a tired voice.
Haa.

"Yes."

The merchant guides the wagon forwards.

I put the bounty money into the rucksack. Did the 30% bonus work?
Maybe not, because it's a bounty?
I'm not sure.

Getting a 30% bonus.

That would have been nice.

After we travel for a while, a shop with a sword comes into view.
Is this the weapon shop?
Two handed sword.
Skill: Double intellect, Flame sword, Purification.
An amazing large sword is the centerpiece of the store.
It has three skills. It must be quite good.

The wagon stops, so I get out.
A man comes over.

Weapon merchant Lv21

Is there a weapon merchant job too?

"Greetings."
"Welcome, what can I do for you?"
"I want to sell swords."

I show the weapon merchant the swords in the wagon.

“Soul of the weapon, unleash the power, weapon judgment!”

The weapons merchant looks at the copper sword while muttering.

Wow.
I’m quite shocked.
I’m surprised because an intelligence card came out.

It looks like there is a skill for weapon appraisal.
Though my judgement skill doesn’t use an incantation, and it’s really good.

“How is it?”
“18 copper swords, they are 250 nars each.”

The merchant nods lightly.
Two of the eighteen shares belong to the villagers.

“Ok. ”
“One iron sword, the price is 1000 nars.”
“Yea.”
“After that……”

The weapon merchant picks up the Flame Rapier.

“How is it?”
“A weapon with a skill, Flame Rapier. I will buy it for 18,000 nars.”

As expected of a weapon with a skill, the price is higher.
The merchant looks a bit surprised, but nods.

“I see.”
“The price of the Scimitar is 500 nars.”

The arms dealer says after only a quick look at the Scimitar.

“Does that price consider the empty skill slots?”
“I don’t know what you mean, you can’t put a skill on this sword.”

The weapons merchant seems annoyed at my request.
Doesn’t he understand the empty slots?

“Ok, so there is no skill. How much is this one?”

I show the weapon merchant the copper sword that I keep at my waist.
“Soul of the weapon, unleash the power, weapon judgment! It’s just a plain copper sword, 250 nars is the market price.”

He put emphasis on “plain”.

There is an empty slot in my copper sword.
Maybe he really doesn’t understand empty slots?
Anyway, it’s apparent that it isn’t reflected by the price.

“I understand. I will keep the Scimitar. I would like to sell the other swords.”
“Thank you very much. You brought a large quantity. I’d like to buy the lot for 30,550 nars.”

So is it 30% bonus?
I don’t really know if it works.

“That will be fine.”
“Certainly. Just a moment.”

The weapons dealer goes inside, then returns with a plate of coins.”
Three gold coins, Five silver coins, and a large amount of copper coins.
Is 10,000 nars a gold coin after all?
Because it is troublesome I take the copper coins without counting them.

“Thank you for this.”
“Thank you.”

I put one gold coin, and all the smaller coins into my drawstring bag.
I offer two gold coins to the merchant.

“Is this all right for the villages share?”
“This is quite a bit.”

Two copper swords, the Flame Rapier, and the Scimitar come to 19,000 nars.

“I like the Scimitar, so I’ve paid highly for it.”

“Thank you, you are very kind.”

The merchant said nothing about the sale price having improved 30%.
He gets the right amount.
The skill is mine.

Next we go to the armor shop.

“The thieves the villagers defeated didn’t have any protective items, so after you unload your stuff at the armor shop we will part ways.
“Is it so? Thank you for taking care of me.”
“No. It is you who have taken care of us, thank you again for saving our village.”

I’m still sad Tirihi didn’t come along.
After unloading my stuff near the armor shop, the merchant leaves in the wagon.

The centerpiece of this shop is the same armor the beautiful female knight was wearing earlier.

Body equipment: Magical armor.
Skill: Magic damage reduction.

It seems to be a good protective item with a skill.

I set aside a set of Leather armor & Leather shoes that look good.
Then I called for a merchant.

“Excuse me?”
“Hello. Can I help you?”

Armor merchant Lv33

Weapons, and Armor merchants seem to be a different jobs.
So armor and weapons shops are all separate?

“I want you to buy these.”
“Soul of the armor, unleash the defense, armor judgement!

The armor merchant looks at the equipment.
I feel a little shy.

Are weapon appraisal and armor appraisal different skills?
A weapons merchant can use only weapon appraisal, and an armor merchant can use only armor appraisal.

“How is it?”
“The Thief’s bandana is 500 nars, Iron armor is 1,800 nars, Leather armors are 200 nars, and leather shoes are 20 nars.”
“I see.”

I do not understand the market price, so I just nod at the prices said.

The bandana of the thief was not high as expected.
Is 500 nars a sum of money someone would risk becoming a slave for?

“There are two leather armors, and seven leather boots. I’ll offer 3,692 nars for the lot.”
“Thank you.”

Maybe I’ll get the 30% bonus.
I accept the price offered.

The armor merchant brings the money.

I have a lot of small change now.

Chapter 12 - Roxanne

I've finished everything I needed to do in Vale.
Now I feel free.
I also feel a bit lost now that I have nothing to do.

It's good having something to do, though doing nothing for a while probably isn't bad.

I have left the merchant, and now I don't know anyone.
When I think of that I suddenly feel lonely.

Nobody knows me in this world.
I am alone.

I'm worried.
I feel uneasy about it.

Wait, was there one person?
A slave trader. He is probably waiting.
Though I don't especially want him to wait.

I should do some information gathering.
That is necessary before entering a labyrinth.

I have leather armor, and leather shoes. I hide in the shade of a nearby building.
I put the leather armor over the top of my cloths, and place the leather shoes into my rucksack.
The copper sword and scimitar are both hanging at my waist. I feel like a samurai.

I check to make sure nobody can see me, and then open the bag with my reward money.
There are 16 gold coins, and a large number of silver coins.

Is this 160,000 nars?
Also, I have too many silver coins.
I find the currency in this world inconvenient, going up every 100

coins when I'm used to having 5 & 10 yen coins.

The reward the village chief gave me was 15 gold coins.
I don't understand the value, but is it a similar amount to the bounty?

I now have 33 gold coins, a lot of silver, and a lot of copper.
I put just the gold coins back into the drawstring bag.

I close the rucksack, and hang it over my shoulder.
I head back out onto the road.

There are a lot of people bustling about.
I even see races that are not human.

There is a beast man, I child with a tail, and a woman with pointed ears.
Oh, she's an elf.
I look around secretly while pretending to examine a product because I didn't want to stare too much.

Jerika Hatoma: 37 year old female swordsman Lv46

Checking status shows ♂ & ♀ for men & women.
She has an extremely beautiful face, and her chest is beautiful too.
Even though her age is 37 she still looks to be in her 20's.

The merchant who owns the shop I'm at comes out.
I run away before I'm caught.

There are a lot of humans, but other races are becoming familiar and seem to fit in well.
As expected of another world.

I walked around looking at things in the city.
I want to check out market prices, but they don't put price tags on things.
I tried listening to conversations between the merchants and customers, but I could not understand the language.
The fruit that looked like a carrot is being sold, but I don't understand the price.

I make my way through the city to the slave dealers place.

“Hello?”
“Oh, the guy from earlier.”

The young man who appears to be an apprentice comes out.

“I’d like to meet with Alan.”
“Ok, could you wait inside for a minute?”

I enter the building, and am guided to a room near the entrance.
The reception is different from last time.
Maybe service differs in the case of sales?

A carpet is spread in the room, an expensive looking picture is on the wall. There is no couch, but instead there is a high quality looking chair & table.
It feels like a waiting room for a good customer.

“Michio, thanks for waiting.”

The slave dealer came straight away.
I hadn’t even sat down yet.

“Umm.”
“Please come with me.”

The slave dealer guides me.
He leads me to the same room as last time.

“Where is the labyrinth you were telling me about?”

Before getting to business with the slave dealer, I chat about something I wanted to know.

“Just in the forest to the west of town.”
“The west should be the opposite side to where I came from.”

Since I came to town with the sun behind me, I should have entered Vale from the east.
I sit on the couch, and an employee brings a drink to the slave dealer and me.
Is it an employee? Or maybe a maid?

Roxanne: 16 year old female. Beast soldier Lv6

She is wearing a white apron over a dark blue dress.
It's maid cloths. There seems to be maids in this world.

The face,

…

She's beautiful.
She's a stunningly beautiful woman.

Even idols are not this beautiful.
This is great, the beauty of women in this world is above earth.

Enchanting reddish brown eyes, magnificent lips, thick chestnut brown hair. She is wearing a triangular white hat.

"Here you are."

The beauty puts a cup in front of me.
Her chest bounces as she places it.
Too amazing.

"Thank you."

I answer plainly.

There seems to be a lot of comfortable loose fitting cloths in this world. The size of a woman's chest isn't easy to figure out.
The apron and maid cloths here are loose also.

However, it bounces.
It definitely bounces.
My eyes watched the jiggle of the breasts.
The volume must be considerable with this much bouncing.

"The entrance to it was only found two days ago, so it will still be a while before it's cleared."
"Oh."

I'm not listening to the slave dealer.
It's because of the breasts on the beautiful woman.

Her height is similar to mine, maybe a little over 160cm?

The cloths don't expose much, but judging by the face & hands she doesn't have any extra weight.
But, that bouncing…

Roxanne is a race that is not human.
I can't see her ears because of her hat & hair.

Roxanne puts a cup in front of the slave dealer.

"Please drink."
"Thank you."

I look to the cup now.

At the slave traders suggestion, I pick up the cup.
I think it's something like a herbal tea.
I put it slowly to my mouth.

Roxanne bows and leaves the room.

"You seem to like it."
"Eh…"

I nearly spit back into the cup.

"It's a great thing."
"…Um, the drink is good."
"I mean the girl."

Oh, is that it?

"Her?"
"It's the slave I recommend the most."

Yes.
This is how it is.
The slave dealer won't use a regular employee with a customer in a business meeting.

So that's how it is?
Roxanne is a slave?

"…So, it's fine for an adventurer to buy a slave?"

The conversation was a trick.
I can buy Roxanne.
Such a beautiful woman.

“Yes, where should I explain it from? Maybe you are interested in starting a party Michio?”
“Ah, yes.”

I hadn’t thought about it, but I answer naturally.
Can this beautiful woman be bought?

The blood is rushing to my head.
Is my face red now?
Oh no. Calm down.

Even though it’s a slave, it’s not free.

“If you start a party, you can hunt more efficiently. Though some people solo, or work in a group, it’s best to make a group of six people.”
“Is that so?”

So a party consists of six people.

Though if we are together for 24 hours.
It would be better to share a bed.
Sleeping with Roxanne….

“However, there is a problem with six people. You can make a fortune in a Labyrinth. What happens with dividing it? If a white gold coin drops. Or if a demon drops a valuable item?”

Is there a white gold coin as well as a gold coin?
If such a thing appeared, naturally I would buy Roxanne.
Though if there is a valuable item, a guy who wants it always appears.

“Then we have problems?”
“If it’s valuable, criminals will also appear.”
“Indeed.”

I can buy that beautiful Roxanne.

This is bad.
My head is full of it.

She is such a beautiful woman.
I haven't seen anyone so beautiful before.
If I buy her, then she will be mine. My heart is going crazy.

"Needless to say, party members should be people you trust greatly. Though in your case, if there is a great difference in ability then some problems can be prevented. However in many cases problems will still occur in a party."

I try to push thoughts of Roxanne to the corner of my head.

Even if trouble happens in parties in a game, it doesn't become a serious matter.
Byt that's a game character. It's possible that the system will handle things in a net game between human players.

But what about reality?
Party members are other people after all. You have to meet them, and go into a Labyrinth together. And what happens if you throw valuable loot in after that.

"Someone might stab you in the back in the Labyrinth?"
"It's possible."

So that's how it is.
Should I buy Roxanne?

"I see."
"But if the party members are slaves, then all the items belong to the master."

If it's a slave, there isn't problems.
The slave is mine. Mine is mine.
I want to make Roxanne mine.

"What is a slave stabs you in the back?"
"That doesn't happen. If the owner dies, the slave follows the owner to the grave."
"They… They die?"

If Roxanne is bought by someone and they die, Roxanne dies?

“Well, you can make a will for your slaves too and select someone to inherit them, and some people choose to set them free if they have worked well.”
“I see.”

If I die, I would free Roxanne.

“But there isn’t any time to prepare a will if you get killed in a Labyrinth, so you shouldn’t need to worry about being attacked by a slave.”
“If they can’t kill you, can they just run away?”
“They could, but their chances of having a better life after running away are quite slim. Since they are slaves, their masters are obligated to provide food and a place to sleep, so their lives are well taken care of.

I want to provide food and a place to sleep to Roxanne.
Especially a place to sleep.

Oops.
My mind is wandering again.

“What about if they run away with a valuable treasure?”
“The fugitive slave becomes a thief. It’s a crime to kill a slave, but it is not to kill a thief. They would have to prepare considerably well to avoid at least getting a beating.”

And this guy will kindly buy your thief.
So thief is lower ranked than slave.
They are below Roxanne.

“So the possibility of running away is small?”
“Yes, so a lot of adventurers like to buy slaves.
“I understand.”

If a party doesn’t have similar interests, it can become a problem.
I’m just one person from earth. I don’t know the common sense of this world, so it might be difficult to find companions.

Will my life become just me shut in alone in a dungeon.

I'll be a solo player forever if I don't buy Roxanne.

No, I guess it doesn't need to be Roxanne.
But it should be a beautiful woman.

"She is a beast soldier, and you will find her useful as a party member straight away."

The slave dealer recommends Roxanne.

"Beast soldier…."
"You don't know? She is a wolf person, and beast soldier is a job only those from the wolf family can take."
"Oh."

Judgement just shows Roxanne as female.

"You've never bought a slave?"
"No."
"She is a beautiful woman, and one of the best I'm selling at the moment. She's quite smart, and should make an ideal slave for a first time customer. Also, being a beast soldier from the wolf people is the main reason I can recommend her to you."

The slave dealer is pushing for a sale.

There must be some downsides.
I should try not to get carried along by the business talk.

No. Roxanne is amazing.
Her arrow has already struck my heart.

"Why are the wolf people recommended?"
"Have you heard that elves have long lives?"
"Yes."

It's a common story.
So it's the same in this world?

"It's just a myth."
"What?"
"Elves, humans, and beast people all have similar life spans, and intellect, but the reason people think the elves have long lives is

because all of them look youthful."
"I see."

The elf woman I saw in town looked to be in her 20's, yet judgement told me she was 37.
Roxanne is a beautiful woman, but the elf was beautiful too.
But Roxanne has a bigger chest.

"For a person of another race, it is harder to distinguish aging. For example, if you see a two year old dog, and an eight year old dog, you won't see much difference."
"Right."
"At 60-70, beast people age so that even humans can notice, but they still look quite youthful into their 50's. A girl from the wolf people would look young almost forever."
"Really."

So Roxanne will always look young?
Roxanne is a year younger than me.
Will a 51 year old me look young to a 50 year old Roxanne?

"There is another thing about other races that you may think is an advantage."
"Oh?"
"You can't have a child with females from another race."
"Oh…."

Does that mean I can do whatever I want?
Is there a Kondo Musashi in this world?
So Roxanne… would not get pregnant?

"Needless to say, she is a virgin."

Is that so?
Roxanne.

"Is a virgin's price different?"
"There is no worry about illness if she is a virgin. There is a brothel in this town, but I don't recommend going there."

So I shouldn't consider it.
Is there STD's in this world?

I guess there is no antibiotics.
I must keep investigating.

“I see.”
“Also, she is a slave that consented to becoming a sex slave.”
“Wha!”

Roxanne as a sex slave…

“She has agreed to attending to her owners nightly needs.”
“…woah.”

So it’s like that.
My imagination runs off with images of Roxanne.
I don’t need to endure it.

“Though all young female slaves are like that.”
“I see.”

Even in this world, if you buy a young female slave the purpose is the same.
Buying a slave for sex.
“I’m not sure how it will go for a person like you though.”
“Why?”
“Putting your hands on a slave can have an effect on your mind.”

If I have sex with Roxanne, even if there is no resistance, she is a slave.
It would be like doing it by force with money.

“I see.”
“A young person getting a slave for the first time is always like that. And some slaves might try to take advantage of them, like act suggestively and then not permit you to touch their bodies. But a female who has consented to be a sex slave from the beginning isn’t like that.”
“Oh.”
“Last of all, she can speak the Brahim language.”
“Oh.”

I think all my questions have been answered.
I saw the bouncing and jiggling.

It was great. I’d really like to see it again.

“These are all the reasons why I recommend her to you.”

The business talk with the slave dealer ends.

Chapter 13 - Sales Contract

Roxanne.
She is a woman of the wolf people who appeared to me in the room of the slave dealer.
The most beautiful woman I have seen so far, with reddish brown eyes that seem to draw you into their beauty.

Can I buy Roxanne?

I think about her breasts bouncing as she placed the cup in front of me.
I want those breasts.

I am glad that I can buy her.
I'm glad, but I'm also nervous about buying a slave.

But, if I don't buy here then someone else will.
Of course, they will buy her as a sex slave.
I cannot allow that.

I cannot fight the slavery system in this world.
It would be impossible to change the social system.
On modern day earth, public slavery has disappeared. However, human trafficking, organ trading, and child prostitution still exist.
Adults on earth couldn't solve this problem, so it would be impossible for me who was only a high school student on earth to solve it in a different world.

Slavery might disappear if the country becomes more advanced, but that doesn't really solve it even on earth.
I don't even know the basics behind how computers or airplanes work, or how to make a solar battery.

Considering the first village I was in, slavery seems to be tied to dealing justice in this world.
You can't just get rid of slavery without harming things that rely on it.
They would have to build a prison at the very least.
It takes taxes to build a prison, they would have to raise taxes. Then

they'd need a Bureaucracy, and to promote that they would need an education system, and then the bureaucrats may become corrupt. The problem seems to spread very quickly.
It's not the sort of thing that you can work out everything else that it influences.

This is a different world, I don't intend to become someone who revolutionizes society, and I won't deny the slavery system.

But, should I really buy a slave?

I've already sold a slave.

Roxanne.
I think about that beautiful face.

Do I buy Roxanne?
Yes, I should.

I'm a bit hesitant.

Do I buy Roxanne?
Yes, I should.

I don't really have a choice.
The cursor, it doesn't move away from yes.

It's frozen in place.

Do I buy Roxanne?
Yes, I should.

I've thought it over well.
Tirihi & the beautiful female knight didn't take any notice of me.
A delicious story that happens because of my good looks will not happen to me.
That's how it is.

"Does being a sex slave increase the price much?"

I ask the slave trader about the only thing holding me back.

"No, it hardly changes it."
"Why?"

By my thinking, a sex slaves price should be quite high.

“It comes down to the market price, if it’s a young woman there isn’t much difference in work performed, even if one is a sex slave. If you request the same work, the price becomes the same.”
“So a young female who is not a sex slave does the same work as a sex slave?”

The slave trader nods and continues to speak.

“If you go by combat ability, and ability to work, then men & women are the same. 120,000 nars is the price of an adult male in the prime of his life. But a young woman could be more than double this because the price goes up drastically depending on her looks.”

So if it’s just for work, the price difference between a male & female slave won’t be much different.
But if it’s a young beautiful female slave, the price will be high.
Of course, this is because the demand is high. Slaves like that can be shown off in a store window.

That part is the same for sex slaves and regular slaves.
This is why the price doesn’t change.

The slave traders words are starting to make sense.

Maybe I should ask about it some more.
Though I haven’t yet said if I will buy her or not.
Maybe I should decide that before asking more about it.

I pulled up my character stats.
There is a tick next to discount negotiations.
There is a 10% discount from negotiations.
Is it the usual pattern?
I remove the 30% bonus sale price, and increase the discount to 30%.
30% discount is the most I can get.

“So she would be quite expensive?”
“Let me see…”

The slave dealer smiles.

Does he understand how much I want to buy her?

“Umm.”
“The market price is about 600,000. If I include the cloths, and because I recommended her, I’ll sell her to you for 422,800 nars.”

The slave dealer says this with enthusiasm.

After hearing it, I let out a large sigh.

420,000 nars?
It’s not a price I can afford.

If it was a price I could afford, I might jump at it. I would jump at it. It would be hard not to.
Looking into Roxanne’s reddish brown eyes, the value is definitely there.

But, I only have 33 gold coins.
My feelings have nothing to do with it.
I can’t pay what I don’t have.

“Sadly, I can’t afford that price.”
“That’s too bad.”

The merchant answered with a slight air of regret.
I am disappointed.

“It can’t be helped.”
“Then how about having a look at some of our other slaves?”

I see.
He show me the most beautiful woman first to convince me, and then when I can’t buy her he’ll sell me some cheaper plain looking woman.

A sex shop will say an AV actress is working there, and then when her name brings in clients they’ll put you with a different woman.
I haven’t gone to one, but I’ve heard about this on the net.

This is a similar strategy, but I wasn’t really deceived.
I just wasn’t able to afford it.

I was lured in with sex.

“That might be good.”
“Ok.”

The slave dealer gives a bow, and then leads me to a different location.
We go further into the building, and up to the third floor via some steep narrow steps.

“”Welcome.”

There is a woman on the third floor.
There is only a small landing near the stairs, with two doors leading left & right.

“Make them line up.”
“Certainly.”

The woman opens the door to the left and goes inside.

“The third floor is for female slaves. We have female employees managing this floor.”
“Oh.”
“They are also checked to be virgins.”

The slave trader explains while we stand there.
So men can’t go here?

We hear the woman’s voice in the room next to us.
After a short while, the noise there calms down and the woman comes back.

“They are prepared.”
“Please follow me.”

The slave dealer guides me into the room.

Lots of women are lined up in single file from left to right.
Surprisingly, there is no smell of rags or malnourishment.
Oh, it’s because they are products.
They are maintained well.

“These?”
“Yes, please come inside and have a look at them.”

“Ok.”

I walk past the female slaves, looking at them one by one.
I thought they might undress them when they show of slaves, but it doesn’t happen.
Maybe because I haven’t decided to buy one yet?

Since they are watching me as well, I’m feeling tense.
However, there is no feeling of embarrassment.
It feels more like they are watching without motivation, rather than paying attention.

Do slaves look at their owners like this?
It feels like I’m starting to realize what it means to buy a slave.

They would probably treat their master well.
I don’t really want them to watch me, but it would be nice to see more life in their eyes.

“They are fed well here because they are products. It’s better than where they were before.”

The slave trader says this as if he can sense me hesitating.

“I see.”

The comfort of this place isn’t bad.
They probably don’t have to work here either.
If I was a slave, I might just want to stay here.

The first woman has no motivation in her eyes.
She looks at me with indifference.

The next woman looks sulky.
I wouldn’t consider buying her.

“They’ve all remained unsold for a while?”
“Yes.”

I don’t really want to think about it.
The slave trader has a continuous cost if meals are eaten.
If they remain unsold, the price will drop, and their living conditions will get worse.

The next woman doesn't have lifeless eyes, but her face isn't nice.

The next one… I'm not considering her.

The next woman is rather average.
Woman, 27 years old, villager. She's too old.

The next one is a slightly cute child.
But she has a flat chest.

There are more cute young girls ahead.
That might be nice, but…

I walk right through til the last one.
There's more young women, and several pretty children.
Maybe it's not bad.

However, Roxanne was the first one I saw.

After seeing her, all these women seem inferior.
The slave dealers strategy is a failure.
I would have show a plain looking woman first, and saved the beauties for later.

I walk back to the beginning while looking over the women again.
The slave dealer and I leave the room.

Outside the room, the woman is with Roxanne.
Did she return after finishing her waitress duties?
She is so beautiful.
Roxanne bows.

Oh, dog ears! Dog ears!
She has changed her cloths, and removed her hat, so I can see her ears clearly now.
They are large and flop down. They look like the ears of a golden retriever.
If you aren't paying attention to them, they blend in quite well with her hair.

"How was it?"

The slave dealer asks me.

“Sorry, after seeing this one the rest don’t compare.”
“I see, the customer seems to have taken a liking to you.”

The slave dealer says to Roxanne.

“…”

Roxanne watches me silently.
When our eyes meet, I avoid her gaze by looking down.
I’m embarrassed and feeling a bit shy.

So what now?
She’s really cute.

But, impossible things are impossible.
I can’t do anything about it.
I’ll have to give up on it.

“If you are interested, I can hold her for up to ten days.”
“Oh?”
“The city is open every five days, but five days is a bit short. I will wait until the city opens in 10 days. If you are able, you have until then to prepare.”

The slave trader pushes the conversation along on his own.
The flagship product was shown, the low end products were shown.
Was the strategy to bring me back to the high quality goods?
I was too careless.

“That… is very…”
“The customer is interested in you, but cannot afford you yet, so we will contract you to be on hold for ten days.”

The slave dealer declares to Roxanne.

“You are most kind.”

Roxanne bows.

They have good teamwork.
If it’s come to this, it’s impossible to decline.

Even is they have conspired together, it isn’t really a bad thing.

Because I can acquire this beautiful woman.

To begin with, Roxanne, and the slave dealer, they aren't really cheating me.
The slave dealer declared that she is a virgin, and he couldn't try to sell her to two customers at once.
If his explanation was not a lie, Roxanne would die if I die.
Would he make me prepare the money, and then kill me to take it away?

If they are just cooperating to make a sale, then it isn't a bad thing.

"I can't make a definite promise that I can prepare in that time."
"If I look for a new buyer, with her beauty I can find one straight away."
"So a better customer will appear during these 10 days?"

I try to resist a little.

"You don't need to worry about other customers."
"If a good customer shows up, that might be better."
"No, I'll wait for you."

Oh? Is this how the business works?
Why would he wait for me?

Roxanne looks at me and smiles happily.
White teeth show through the gap in her elegant lips.

Beautiful.
So beautiful.

"Then, please move her to the room for sold products."

The slave dealer orders the woman.
The game is over.

"Yes, it will be done."

The woman takes Roxanne to the room opposite the one we were in.

"Thank you in advance."

Roxanne bows to me three times.
Her dog ears shake.

Yes.
Game, set, match.

“Shall we go?”

The slave dealer starts heading down the stairs.

Chapter 14 - Vale Pavilion

“I might not be able to prepare the money.”

I follow the slave dealer down the stairs.

“I don’t think that will happen. I heard you defeated a thief, so you probably had an income of 2-300,000 nars in just a couple of days.”

The slave dealer seems to be estimating my finances quite accurately.
Does he estimate that I have near 420,000 nars?
I can’t disagree with the asking price, I have no choice but to go along with it.

But there are things the slave dealer doesn’t know.
He doesn’t know I had 0 nars a few days ago.

“Including that money, it’s still not enough.”
“Surely that’s not the case.”

Where does his confidence come from?

I followed the slave dealer, and we arrived at the room from earlier.

The methods for me to earn money in this world, at the moment there are two.

One is to go into the dungeon.
If one dropped item sells for 100 nars, and I collect 100 a day then that’s one gold coin. By the tenth day it will become 100,000 nars.
Is that too hard?

Rabbit’s furs were 20 nars each, so 100 nars might be too optimistic.
I don’t know if you can hunt 100 of them in a day either. I don’t know if 100 demons will drop 100 items either.
The demons I hunted previously all dropped one item, but that might not always be the case.
If I fight a strong demon, it’s dropped items might be more scarce.

The other way is getting bounty money from killing thieves.
The bounty from two thieves is 160,000.
Is that where the slave traders confidence comes from?

There is some mental resistance to that though.
When I fought in the village I thought it was a game, and it was self-defense.
I don't know if I can kill a person for money.
Also, I might not find one in ten days.

Using my knowledge from earth, I can't think of any other ways to get the money in time.
I might think of something, but it will be hard to do in ten days.

"Can I make money if I go into the labyrinth?"

I sit on the sofa and ask the slave dealer about it.
It is necessary to gather more information.

"Not much, but it's steady income, and you might get lucky in there too."
"I see."

So that's how it is.
If it's not much, is it too hard to make the money based on regular drops?

"The items can be sold at the explorer, and adventurer guilds. If there is someone looking for them specifically the price might be higher."
"Ah, the guilds."
"The explorer guild is on the main street, it's near the yellow signboards. The adventurers guild is in the west side of the town, and it has bad relations with the explorers guild."

So the explorers guild and adventurers guild don't get along with each other.
There is an explorer job as well?

"I see."
"You could also aim for some bounty money."

The slave dealers ideas seem to resemble my own.

“I see.”
“I don’t recommend it, but it can be quite profitable.”
“You don’t recommend it?”
“Well, only the capital city has a bounty hunters guild.”
“Bounty hunter…”

That job exists?
I open my job stats.
I got the thief job from stealing, the farmer job from some farm work, how about when I claimed the bounty?
It was an idea, but it’s not there.

“You have to get a lot of experience as a soldier to become a bounty hunter.”
“Is that so.”

Maybe that’s a requirement to acquire the job?
Soldier Lv10

“Bounty hunters are quite strong, but not good on defense. If they build a guild somewhere outside the capital, it would probably be destroyed straight away.”

From a thief’s point of view, a bounty hunter is probably a hated enemy.
There might be problems forming parties with them.
Would they attack me?
Or am I safe since I killed a thief?

“If you get too much bounty money, will you be attacked?”

There doesn’t seem to be any social problem with killing thieves.
People that kill, get killed.
It seems to be a rule in this world.

“That does happen, and if a person who is killed by a thief doesn’t have any relatives then the bounty money might not be very high.”

So was the reward for the thief I killed in the village higher than normal?

No. The slave dealer estimated it exactly.

Well, killing thieves will be a last resort.
First I will try making money in the labyrinth.

“I see. I plan to stay in this town for a while, can you recommend a hotel somewhere? An expensive place would be a problem, but it should at least be a place I can sleep without having to worry about my safety.”
“The vale pavilion in the southwest side of town center is an inn that is run by the hotel guild.”
“Thank you, I will go there.”

The hotel guild. I find that hard to believe, but if a guild is running it then it should be safe.
I stand up.
Everything has been decided and my business here is done for now.

“Then, we shall wait for ten days.”

The slave dealer sees me off as I depart the building.

The sun is still high in the sky.
The roads in this town head north, south, east & west. I start off to the west. I think it’s a bit after noon.

First of all, I head back to the main street.
I head down the street and find the explorers guild.

Explorer Lv17

Yes, there is definitely an explorer job.

The guild has a counter inside it, and feels similar to a country post office.
There are signs pasted on the wall at the road side.
There are several people inside, and I see one placing a load on the counter.

“Someone ordered this.”
“I will pay for it.”

The employee handles the business over the counter.

I stand at one of the signs while straining my ears to listen.

…I can't read the characters.

I can't understand what is written here.
The intelligence card had Japanese characters, but the characters here are different.
Is the explorers guild special? Is the intelligence card special?

"You can't read it?"

Someone speaks to me.
It's a girl about the same age as me.
She is a villager Lv2.

"Ah."
"I can read. 10 nars for six minutes."

I see.
This world has a low literacy rate so this happens.
She's reading to make money.

"Please do it."

I put down the rucksack, and take ten copper coins from the drawstring bag.
I don't understand the value of ten nars.
The 30% discount doesn't seem to work.
It might be a high price because it's to someone who can read.

"Here."

The employee inside passes the customer some money.
I don't know what is being sold, or it's value, but they seem to be being quite careful with the money.
Maybe they fear being targeted if they pass around a lot of money.

I passed ten nars to the girl.
She has a cute face, but her breasts are hard to make out with the way her cloths hang.
There is no way they are better than Roxanne's.

"I'll read until this clock stops."

She pulls an hourglass from her belt, and flips it.
It seems to be quite precise.

Though I wouldn't be surprised if it was just five minutes.
If there is a difference, even if I complain I won't get my time back.

"I see."
"What information would you like to know, or do you have something you are interested in selling?"

She is prepared.
Even if she asks what I'd like to know, I don't understand what sort of information is on this board anyway.

"Is there anything about Rabbit's fur?"
"Rabbit's fur."

She reaches out, and starts running her arm along the signs.

"There is?"
"This. Bikka from Somara village is selling two of them."

She points.
Bikka from Somara village is the merchant I know.
The village chief told me to sell my rabbit furs to him.
The sign is up here to advertise and sell them highly.

The other characters probably say where to find him.

"It doesn't say the price?"
"The price is double what the guild would pay."

Is that so?
The advertising price of the guild seems to be a tenth of the cost.
Making money from drops seems to be quite difficult.

"Is there any Rabbit's meat?"
"I think restaurants will buy it. Are you asking about large quantities?"
"Yes."

I see.
Ingredients can be sold to a restaurant.

“There doesn’t appear to be any places with a request up for Rabbit’s meat.”

She gives the whole board a quick look.
It’s about three quarters full.
I wonder if there’s much aside from purchase requests?

“What information is on the board aside from purchase requests?”
“Explorers job offers, and information about the Labyrinth. It appeared near the town two days ago. People should be cautious of it.”

The slave trader said it was difficult for people who don’t know each other to form a party, but it does seem to be happening.
The conditions might not be good though.

“What kind of job offers are there?”
“What are you interested in?”
“Just start reading at the beginning.”

It’s hard to work out.
Isn’t it just party recruitment?

“Here’s one. The knights group needs help with transportation. It’s 800 nars after 10 days.”
“I see.”

So 80 nars a day.
From her tone of voice, it doesn’t sound like good work.

“The soldier corps has 10 days transportation work for 1,200 nars, but meals are not included.”
“Is that so.”

So this one has higher pay, but no meals.
Could food expenses be 400 nars for 10 days? 40 nars per day?

Since it specifically mentions that meals are not included, maybe that means they are normally included with work in this world.
Would the knight group work involve going to a military outpost?
Were the meals for that included?

I compare the two posters.
The same handwriting is used for both the posters about transportation.

As I think about it, six minutes have passed.

“The time is up. How was it? Good enough?”

The sand in the hourglass has completely passed to the bottom.

“Thank you, it was good reference.”
“Ok, see you later.”

She waves, and I leave the guild.
I’m not sure if reading for people is a common business. I wonder if I should learn to read for myself?

I head towards the center of town.
I head to the opposite side of where the knights headquarters is, to the southwest.
Is that the building?

The cost of lodging in the center of town might be quite high.
It’s probably safer though.
I have 33 gold coins at the moment, so I don’t want to stay somewhere shady.

I go into the inn.

It looks neat, but not really high class.
Is the lobby a restaurant? It has a lot of tables and chairs, but there are no people sitting down.
Maybe it isn’t the right time for customers? This world has no lunch.

“Please come in.”

As I head towards the counter, I hear a voice from inside.

Hotel Lv28

There seems to be a job named Hotel.
A man in his thirties comes out. He is wearing rough looking cloths similar to mine.

This definitely is not a high class hotel.
It should be a good price.

“Is it possible to stay for a long period of time?”
“Are you going to enter the Labyrinth?”
“Yes.”

Since the Labyrinth was found, the amount of guests here has probably increased.
It might have become a busy season.
Are there still rooms vacant?

“Is a single room good, or would you like to share a group room?”
“A single room.”

They have a shared group room?
That was common cheap housing in the Edo period.
There might be this kind of thing if you think about the cultural level.
For safety I do not want a shared room with other guests.

“What grade of room would you like?”
“Regular please. An expensive one would be a problem.”
“Would you like dinner included? You can get it separately, but there is a discount if it’s included.”
“How much is it?”
“60 nars. If you order it separately it’s 80-100 nars. You could also search around for a cheap place for dinner.”

When I thought 40 nars would be the food cost after considering the knights job, this seems slightly high.
Meals will be all sorts of prices, so maybe because it’s so high it’s good?
Since I came from Japan, the meals here have been hard to endure.
It might be difficult to look for a cheap meal, and it will be convenient if I can eat when I come back to the hotel.

“I’ll include dinner.”
“This is the Pavilion Inn of the hotel guild. I will check your intelligence card to see if it’s good.”
“I don’t mind.”

Is the check to prevent strange guests from coming here?
That's convenient.

"Ok."
"Are the only ones who can't stay here thieves?"
"What else would there be?"
"Oh, I was just curious."

Even slaves and nobles seem to be okay.

"Ah. There's also bandits and pirates. I've heard of a thief who did a number of vicious things and became a villain too, but I've never seen one."
"I see."

So thief also has a higher job type?

"The cheapest room is 260 nars, and dinner is 60 nars, so your charge is 224 nars per night. That has to be paid in advance, and you are also allowed to keep the room for the whole day."

260 plus 60 is 320, but I'm being charged 224?
My 30% discount works here.

"I understand."

I put down my rucksack, and pull out the drawstring bag.

"Please have your meal in the dining room near the entrance. Breakfast is also included in the room fee, and it is served 30 minutes after sunrise. Dinner is served from early evening until 30 minutes after sunset. There won't be any food if it's too late, and the light in the dining room goes out two hours after sunset."
"Ok."

I place 4 silver coins and 48 copper coins on the counter.
I should be stingy, but I'll pay for a couple of days.
I want to decrease the amount of copper coins I have.
There's also the chance I might lose the drawstring bag, so it's safe to have at least one extra day paid up.

The hotel man counts the coins.

“You’ve given me two days wort, please show me one of your arms.”
“Here.”
“Intentions of the soul, breath of wisdom, intelligence card, open!”

My left arm is raised in front of him.
I should let him fill out the inn register.

“Is it alright?”
“Yes. Michio Kaga.”

It should say Kaga Michio on the intelligence card. Did he realize that the first part is my family name?

“That’s right.”
“I’ll guide you to your room.”

He leaves the counter.
He doesn’t take my bag for me.

“Ah.”

I follow him.
We climb two sets of stairs. Looks like my room is on the third floor.

“If your going to the Labyrinth, we can buy some ingredients from you. It might be troubling if it’s alot, but a reasonable amount can be put on the menu.”
“Ok.”
“If you wish for hot water to wipe your body, please request it when you return. Hot water is 20 nars, it will be brought to your room after dinner, and collected in the morning. We can loan you a lantern with an hour of oil for 10 nars. You may add more oil yourself, but please do not start a fire.”
“I’ll be careful.”

We arrived while I listened to the details.
He opens the door with a key.

“We are here.”
“Thank you.”

The room is rectangular, and about ten tatami mats in size.

There’s a desk and a chair, a bed with a closet next to it, and a wooden window near the chair. [TN Maybe wooden shutters on a window, no glass?]
It’s a good room.

What was that room at the village chiefs house?
Well, that was free.

“The closet is locked and can be used for valuables. Please look after valuables yourself carefully. Employees clean once a day around noon. If you need washing done, please ask an employee. Please leave your key at the front desk when you go out. The room number here is 311.”

The man passes me a key, and use it to open the closet.

“I understand.”
“Enjoy your stay.”

He leaves.

I try sitting on the bed.
It’s not really soft, but it’s not hard.
It’s a good bed.

I lower my rucksack, and pull out my luggage.
I can leave the jersey in the room. The village chief said it was valuable, but I won’t be too worried if it is stolen.
The cheap leather shoes are the same.

There are two drawstring bags in the rucksack which have money in them.

I put the copper sword in the closet.
Since I learned kendo, I can fight easily with a sword in each hand, but when a fight starts I’ll pull out durandal.
The scimitar is light and easy to hang at my waist.

I look at the room key.
There are characters written on it that are probably the room number.
Is that the character for one that forms a line?

Well, it doesn’t matter.
Should I go to the Labyrinth?

I stand up, and sling the rucksack over my shoulder.

Chapter 15 - Explorer

I turn in my key, and leave the inn.
I look out at the city, and then head towards the castle gate.

There are still no guards at the castle gates.

I leave the gate and make my way towards the forest.
The Labyrinth should be just inside the forest I was told.

I head through the field.
Just before entering the forest, a black wall appears to my left.

What's that?

As I wonder about it, a person comes out through the wall.

Adventurer Lv 19

Knight Lv14

Swordsman Lv42

Explorer Lv 41

Shinto Priest Lv39

Wizard Lv40

Oh! It's a Wizard! A Wizard!

Is that traveling magic?
Amazing.
I want to use it.

Are these six people a party?

"It's here."
"I see."

The adventurer speaks, then the knight nods and they enter the forest.

The knight looks rather pompous.
Even though he's the lowest level.

I follow the six people. They go to a place with a small hill that sticks up from the ground. There are black walls similar to the one from earlier surrounding the hill.

Is that the entrance to the Labyrinth?
Instead of felling like a hill, it's more like a Kamakura made out of soil. Did only this part appear and the rest is underground? [TN Kamakura: Mid-January festival where children make snow huts to play in.]

A single person stands near the entrance.

Explorer Lv18

"How far are you going?"
"Three floors in, since it just appeared."

The two explorers spoke.
The one being asked is the explorer who just arrived.

"What do you want to do?"
"We'll start with the first floor, and see how we go."

The explorer asks the night, and the knight issues instructions.
The knight seems to be the party leader.

They approach a black wall, and disappear through it.
Is this where you get in?

Should I go too?
I bring up my character stats, and move my points from discount to weapons 6.
I put a bonus point into shortening incantations.
It's hard to recite them while fighting.

After putting a point into incantation shortening, the skill changes to incantation omission.
It's good that it doesn't decrease 10% at a time.

Should I put a point into increased critical chance?

I put a point in there, and the skill changes to a 10% rise.
I put the rest of my points in it, and get it up to 30%.

I finish changing my character stats.

I hang durandal at my waist, and approach the entrance.
The explorer near the entrance doesn't say anything to me as I pass.

Timidly I walked into the black wall.
It let me through without trouble.

For a moment I pass through a pitch-black area, and then I find myself in the Labyrinth.

I find myself in a small cave-like room.
It's around a 4-5 meter square room.
The room is dimly lit up.

Paths lead from the small room.
One straight ahead, one to the left, and one to the right.

There is a black wall behind me.
It's the "door" that I have entered through.

The paths leading from this room are dark tunnels.
They are relatively small, with a width of about three meters.
It's too dark to see the end.

The path straight ahead turns into a crossroad straight away.
Looks like this will be complicated.

I haven't prepared anything for mapping. Will I be alright?
Is it going to be dark in the rest of the Labyrinth?

Those six people didn't look to be carrying lights.
Maybe the Wizard used some kind of light magic.

For now, I'll try always sticking to the left wall so I don't have to worry about mapping.
When you enter a maze you won't get lost if you stay along one wall.

I head down the path to the left.

The left path soon splits into two paths.
The walls and floor all feel reasonably solid.

When I step on the floor, the part I step on gives off some dim light.
The light isn't much, and I'm worried it might make me easier to find by demons.

After walking a little, I hear a noise behind me.
I turn to look back at the previous room and see a group there.
Six people, five Knights and an explorer.
They walk into the black wall and disappear.

It seems the black wall still connects to the exit.

I check my job settings.
I've entered a Labyrinth, so maybe I got something?

Explorer Lv1
Effect: Small strength rise, Skill: Item box, party organization, dungeon walk.

It's there.
Is an explorer a person who finds Labyrinths?
I seem to have gotten it from entering the Labyrinth.

I fiddle with my jobs, but can only put Villager Lv3 or Thief Lv3 in the first spot.
It's the same as before, maybe because I used a bonus point.

If I consider the intelligence card, I should not put thief as my first job.
The first job seems to be shown on the intelligence card when people look at it, so it would cause trouble if people saw my job was thief.

I leave Villager Lv3 as the first job.
Hero Lv1 has a large effect, and I leave it as the 2nd job.
I set the third job to Explorer Lv1.

I try to use the new skill.

"Item box!"

Before I finish speaking, some kind of box appears in my hand.
Well, it's more like the entrance to a box. Looking at it from the side it has no depth, it's just a doorway.
Is this space magic?

It came out halfway through trying to activate the skill.
The incantation shortening skill probably caused it.

What happens if I talk about the item box in a conversation?
It feels like I've just discovered a weakness to the skill.
I don't have to pray for it to appear the way I do with stats, though it's possible it won't appear if it's just part of conversation.

I take the scimitar from my waist, and place it in the box.
There was no problem putting it in, despite it's length.

After taking my hand away, the entrance vanishes.

After saying "item box" again, the box reappeared.

The scimitar is in the box.
Somehow I get the impression that the item box is full with one scimitar in it.

I want to try out various things on it, but I shouldn't be fooling around in a Labyrinth.
It's possible I'll be surprised by a demon.

I take my hand away, and the item box vanishes. I want to try out my next skill.
Party organization. Well, I guess there is no point when there is just one person.

"Dungeon walk."

When I use this skill, I get an understanding that it wants more information from my thoughts.
Information on where I want to go.
I imagine the small room I first appeared in.

A black wall appears near me.

I walk into the black wall.

The place that I appeared is the small room from a little while ago. There is the black wall ahead of me which is the exit from the dungeon.
The black wall behind me disappears as soon as I step out.

Nice.
It seems I can teleport to places I can remember.
Judging by the name of the skill, this only applies to places in the dungeon.

No, I watched the party from before come from a black wall before I entered the dungeon.
The wall that the party of six people came from.

“Dungeon walk”

I recite the skill while thinking of the trees in the forest.
A black wall appears, but I am not able to enter it.
Is it useless if it’s not in the dungeon?

Well, it’s not something to worry about.
Mapping might be unnecessary now too.

“Dungeon walk.”

I use the skill again to return to where I was a short while ago.
A black wall appears….
But I wasn’t able to enter it.

What happened?
Why?
Lack of MP?
That shouldn’t be it. The black wall appeared.

Maybe the places I can go are limited?
Maybe to just small rooms like this one, or places with a door?

There seems to be no other way, so I go on foot.

Next, I’ll try Overwhelming, the hero skill.
Though, I think I can probably only try out this skill during combat. Is that right?

I don’t really have a basis for that thought.
It’s possible it’s a passive skill I’ve been using all the time already.
No, that’s probably wrong. It has an incantation.

I continue on.
Something is moving further into the Labyrinth.

Needle Wood Lv1

It’s a humanoid demon with a green head and a brown body.
It’s not very big, and quite thin.

How will things go with durandal?
I draw the sword and rush forward.

“Overwhelming!”

I shout out, and swing my sword down on it’s left shoulder, cutting straight through it.
It’s brown body falls to the ground.

Ah.
A single blow.
I wonder if I look cool?
It looks like my finishing move has been decided.
I imagine myself defeating the strongest demon with this technique.

Though, durandal is the reason for doing this in a single blow.

Nothing happened.
Nothing changed.

No, it’s different.
I don’t have enough MP.
The skill didn’t work because I don’t have enough MP.

Since I get the Skill: Overwhelming at Hero Lv1, I should be able to use it with the MP of Hero Lv1.
But my MP was insufficient, so I wasn’t able to use the skill even though I remembered the incantation.
Maybe I used too much MP trying the dungeon walk? This is the second time I haven’t been able to use it.

Branch.

When the Needle Wood disappears, there is a tree branch remaining.

I try to put it in the item box, but it doesn't work.
The item box is full with just my scimitar in it.
Well, that's how it is.

There's no helping it, so I put the branch into my rucksack.
It's a ten centimeter long branch. Will it be used for firewood?
I don't think it will sell well.

I start looking for my next target.
My MP has probably recovered because of durandals MP absorption, but I'll hunt another two to be sure.
It's annoying that I can't work out how much MP I have.

Needle Wood Lv1

I head towards the demon that appeared.
As I approach, the Needle Wood raises his left branch. He looks like he's attacking.
But, my attack is faster.
From his right shoulder to his left side I cut straight through him with one swing of the sword.

The Needle Wood becomes smoke and disappears. It leaves a branch.

I put it in the rucksack, and continue on.
I killed another, and then head left at the next split in the path.

There's another party up ahead.
All the members are surrounding a Needle Wood.

There isn't any way past them, they are straight ahead.
I got here by walking along the left wall to stay safe.
I have dungeon walk though, so I should be able to get back to the first room from anywhere.

I turned back to the last fork, and took the other route.

There’s something up ahead.

Needle Wood Lv1

The slight glow from the ground at my feet is a disadvantage.
I have to be careful not to be hit by a surprise attack.
I don’t know if the demons move around relying on their sight.

“Overwhelming!”

I run towards the demon, and recite the skill.

Nothing happens.
Wait, no, something is different.

The demons movement has gotten slower.
It’s like the demon is moving in slow motion.
I approach the demon in the meanwhile.
I have an idea that I want to watch it a bit longer, but I ignore it and raise the durandal.

Is the demons movement slow?
Or is my movement fast?

I swing the durandal through the Needle Wood that didn’t even get a chance to be ready to attack.
It becomes smoke and disappears. It feels like I’ve calmed down a bit too.

The effect of the skill appears to be acceleration, or maybe a boost in agility.
It will be a very useful skill if it lets me out maneuver an enemy.

I’m feeling a bit depressed, maybe because of the MP use?
When my MP starts running low I start feeling rather bad.

The skill must take all of my MP, though some will have recovered from durandals MP absorption.
The wave of depression goes up and down like a roller coaster.

I have a strong mind, but I could get quite sick if I repeat this.
I won’t be able to use it much until I have more MP.

I try to calm down a bit, and check my stats.

Kaga Michion: Male, 17 years old. Villager Lv4, Hero Lv1, Explorer Lv1.
Equipment: Sandals, Leather armor, durandal.

My level has gone up, but only for Villager.
Hero, and Explorer's levels did not change.

I've defeated four Needle Woods.
If I only need 1/5th of the required experience to level up, and I'm also getting 5x more experience than normal, I should be leveling 25x as quick so it's like 100 Needle Woods worth of experience was hunted.
Is it really quite hard to level up?

The levels of people in this world give an impression of not being very high.
It's different from a game, it might take me dozens of years if I keep working steadily.

The level hasn't gone up after hunting 100, so for a Lv1 Explorer, if he hunts one every day for three months it won't be enough for him to get to Lv2.
That seems quite slow.

Or, maybe my experience bonus doesn't work?
Is Explorer harder than normal to increase? Hero didn't become Lv2 either, and Villager went from Lv2-Lv4. Different jobs might need different experience levels.
And what is my experience distribution like with three jobs?
I thought it would have been 1/3 each for three jobs.

Oh, I want a walkthrough.

I checked my character stats.
Since Villager increased by one level, I have another bonus point.

I removed my points from increased critical strike, and got incantation omission.
I've only attacked four times, if my crit rate is 5% then it probably hasn't even happened once yet. [TN not sure why it's 5%, probably

some translator fail here]
Since I'm killing things in one shot, there is no point even if it works.
There are now two more points in incantation omission, and it's become blurred out.

Is the skill complete with only 3 points?
That's pretty good.
Even if it's just a percentage shorter I'd be happy.

When I used incantation shortening, I only had to recite the name, and not the incantation.
With omission, will I just have to think about it?

To test it out, I think about the item box and the entrance to it appears in my hand.

Chapter 16 - Demon Room

Another dead end.
I hit many dead ends while exploring the labyrinth.
This Time I arrived at a dead end 2 meters after taking a left on that T-junction.

There seems to be many dead ends in this labyrinth.

I've repeatedly hit dead ends since a while ago.
As one would expect from a labyrinth.

Could it be that I've been going around in circles.

Or that is what I thought, but this the first time I encountered this dead end.
It's about two meters, so I can clearly see the dead end.

A large wall stood in the way.

It looks similar to the cave's walls.
No.

There is a slight sense of incompatibility.

Something is out of place.
I approached the wall to investigate.
I strain my eye in the dim light.

Suddenly, I hear a rattling sound.

The wall collapsed.
Actually, rather than collapsing the wall slid down.

The disappearance of the wall reveals a way.
A small room appeared on the other side of the wall.

A hidden room.

By any chance, could the other dead ends be the same?

I didn’t notice.

Should I go back and check them all?
The last discoverers are still there.

A party of six knights.

4 are sitting down, and 2 are sprawled out on the ground.
One of the sitting knights is the beautiful female knight that gave me the bounty money.

When I entered she glanced at me for a second and then returned her gaze while seeming uninterested.
One of the sitting men approached me.

It is the apprentice knight who was in the knight building.
Are they all the knights from the town?
[It is safe here.]

[I see]
What is safe?
[Are you alone?]

[That’s right]
I’ll probably understand if I take a look.
I would rather talk to the beautiful knight rather than this apprentice knight.

Talking to a beautiful woman is preferable even if they are strangers.
[You won’t be able to earn much money in such a labyrinth, it’s hard isn’t it]

[Is that so?]

[If you go to the right side of the junction, there seems to be an entrance to the second floor.]

I see.

It seems to be a bad topic; therefore I try to change it.
[There is nothing but needle Woods around here.]

[It’s because it’s the 1st floor.]

Oh.

I think I said something strange.

I should leave before I let slip anything else.
[Yea, I'm sorry to disturb you.]

[No not at all, take care]
I came out of the small room.

The wall opened when I came and closed when I passed.

It feels like an automatic door.
Might it be the case that even if it seems like a dead end it is actually the same as this dead end?
Should I go back and inspect the other dead ends?
While returning on the road, I thinks about the conversation with the apprentice knight.
Since he said it was safe does that mean that the demons do not enter that room?

I plopped myself down.

Also, it seems I am not able to earn any money through this labyrinth.

To get to the second floor I have to go right at that junction?
I checked a dead end.

There seems to be nothing.

As for the second one, the wall slid and a small room emerged.
As expected, it seems that there were other dead ends like that.

I stepped into the room while thinking …. .
There it was.

A green head and brown body.

I slashed it from the shoulder to the leg.
No, it's not only one.

There is a group.

It’s a bush of needle wood, or perhaps I should say a thicket, no more like a forest.
A blow came from the right, I dodged using my right hand and leg.
I raised my right elbow, and received the blow coming from the left with Durandal. I used the sword to crush the enemy’s head.
I concentrated on using dungeon walk, but the black wall doesn’t appear.

I thought that something like this was probable.

Probably this skill couldn’t be used while engaged in battle.
I should have tried it when there was only 1 enemy, but it’s too late now.
There are 10s of them, more likely dozens, at any rate there is a terrifyingly large number of them.

It’s fortunate that I’m at the door at least this way I’m not surrounded.
Should I escape?

That is probably impossible.

In that case it’s probably better to fight here.
I cut down the needle wood to the right.

While there was a chance, the needle wood on the left attacked.

A pain runs through my left shoulder.
The entrance of the small room was quite wide.
It will be impossible to block it alone indefinitely.

If they manage to get behind I’ll receive attacks from 360 degrees around me.
I need to at least place a wall at my back.
I move to the right while disregarding the demon on the left.

I concentrated on “Overwhelming”.
They stopped moving, I repressed the feelings of excitement. And cut the needle wood to my right with Durandal. Successively, I raise the sword to take down the demon in the middle, but the time delay effect ended.

I still managed to defeat the middle demon.

Moving one more step, I rained blows on top of the demon to the right.
I enter the room, and move along the wall.
When there is a wall to my back I can only receive attacks from 180 degrees.
If I can move to one corner of the room the attack range will shrink to 90 degrees; although it is probably impossible to do so now.
The movement of the needle wood on my left dulled for an instant when I moved.

I used that chance to cut the needle wood in front of me down.

The space created by the death of the needle wood was immediately filled with another demon.

I stepped back and set myself against the wall.
I block a branch attack from the left with a sword.

But, I took a blow from the right side.
“Guh”.
I return the attack and cut the needle wood on the right.
Then I’m hit on my unguarded left shoulder
“Guwa”.
I attacked the demon on the left.

Once again on the right.
It hurts.

I have received an attack.

Since it is not one-on-one, there is no helping it.
I swing Durandal and cut the needle Wood to the right up and down.
I have Durandal.

When the HP absorbed through Durandal is greater than the HP lost in combat it’s not a problem.

At present I have a lot? In any case it’s difficult to grasp with intuition.
Durandal also has MP absorption.

I concentrated on “Overwhelming”.

It worked, I repressed the happiness I felt as I killed the two approaching needle woods. (tln: took my liberty with this line.)

When it lost its effect, I promptly returned to the wall.
I cannot let them circle around me.

I dodge an attack and cut down the demon to my right.

If possible, I’d like to reach the corner of the room since we’ve been drifting to the right.
It looks like a few needle woods are not enough to recharge the MP consumed by “Overwhelming”.

It’s better to use it after MP becomes full to suppress negative feeling as much as possible. Although, the situation might worsen if I don’t use it much.

It might be more sensible to use it as soon as I have enough MP.
Receiving the attack that came from the left with Durandal each needle wood is mown down.

I received a blow to my unguarded right shoulder.

The seesaw like offense and defense starts once again.

I seem to be able to cover the HP lost through Durandal’s HP absorption.

However, I cannot feel relieved.

If I receive several attacks consecutively, I could reach a critical state.

At present, a dangerous balance is kept.

I’m aware of my possible death.

Even though this is a different world, it is still reality.

To be knocked down by a demon here would mean absolute death.
[Umu].

Death is close to me, it is too close to myself.
It is scary, but not frightening.

It does not make me quiver, but I can't laugh it off either.
Is it because I'm fighting?

I was cool-headed, as I stared at the impression of death.
I cut a needle wood and made it collapse.

I receive a blow from the side.

The seesaw like offense and defense continues.
I avoided the branch and countered with Durandal in return.
I aim for the corner as much as possible while scattering the demons.
Before I was aware there were only two needle woods between me and the right corner.

There is my chance.

I concentrated to use "Overwhelming".
I first defeated one of the needle woods obstructing the way, subsequently I killed another demon. Although Overwhelming's effect finished, I raised Durandal and delivered the final blow to the last needle wood blocking the way to the right corner.
I place myself in the corner while avoiding the attack of the demon which finally caught up.

I can only receive attacks from 90 degrees around me.

I took a stance with Durandal, and focused on the demons.
The enemy's numbers were reduced.

I notice this after I calmly take a look around.
I felt that I was cool-headed and stared at the death, but it does not seem I was calm at all.
Only several more remain.

Was it not necessary to forcibly secure a corner?

I need to be calmer, the state of the enemy's power should always be grasped.

My hand seems to be moist.

I have to be careful. If Durandal falls out of my hands, it probably ends there.

I separated my right hand and the left hand in turn and wiped the sweat on my pants.

Meanwhile, I am exposed to attacks several times, but that is unavoidable.
I grasp Durandal and run to the right.

The first needle wood on the right received a blow to the trunk.

If there are only this many then moving around more aggressively should be fine.

I raise Durandal while advancing and slash the demon behind me.

I cut off a branch that was attacking me from the right and use opening to slash down at the demon.
I attack the demon to my right, then sidestepped its attack and delivered an attack of my own.
I exchange blows with the demon in front of me.
In the place where I cut of the needle woods branch came another demon so I had to back off and attack.

I cut down the needle wood replacing the one I cut earlier.

Then, used Durandal to deliver a blow to the head of the needle in front of me.
Only one remains.
The demon does not seem intent on escaping.
I brush off the incoming branch attack easily, I react through raising Durandal up, then stepping in with my left foot and finally delivering a blow to its shoulder.
[Fuu …]
I sighed.

Finally, the demon whom I defeated became smoke and disappeared.

I took a moment to collect my breath.
I looked around the small room.

Its size is four or five meters in each direction, it is the same as the previous room.

There are plenty of branches that were dropped by the demons.

There is also something in addition to the branches.
A leaf.

An ordinary tree leaf.

There are three of them.

Is the leaf a rare drop?
There aren't any other leaves.

There doesn't seem to be any treasure chests or legendary swords.
I confirmed it again while putting the loot into the rucksack.

Were there only demons in the room?

This is thought provoking.
I would have surely died without Durandal.

This labyrinth is proving to be more terrible than I thought.

Would the six knight party I met earlier be able to deal with this room?

Moreover, there is nothing in the room.

Tree branches and leaves also do not seem to be worth much money.
Is this why that apprentice Knight can't earn much money?

It seems that I would encounter other demons if I go to the second floor.
I collected all the branches, I look around one last time to confirm that there is nothing left, then I looked at my stats.

Kaga Michio: Male, 17 years old.

Villager Lv6, Hero Lv3, Explorer Lv4.
Equipment: Sandals, Leather armor, Durandal.

The speed of level increase is fast.

Explorer gained 3 levels.
Is it because my level rose that I did not feel bad the last time I used “Overwhelming”?
Because I did not feel like I recovered, Neither HP nor MP seem to have recovered when raising my level.

HP and MP will be restored through Durandal.

Should I explore more of the labyrinth?
No, it has yet to prove fruitful.

Even if I go on, it could prove to be useless.
Fatigue should be remaining.

Even Durandal can’t remove mental fatigue.
I decided to return to the inn.
I used Dungeon walk while concentrating on the entrance room and entered the black wall that appeared.

I returned to the entrance room and exited though the black wall in the back.
I appeared outside the Labyrinth in an instant.

The sun has begun to set.
I thought only an hour has passed, It appears more time has passed than I thought, It seems that exploring the dungeon distorted my sense of time.

It’ll be because I was feeling strained all the while.

I better take note of the time I spend the next time.

As I thought, it’s probably useless.

I readjust the character settings and replace Durandal with the 30% discount.

Two points remain because Villager is now Lv.6.

What should I put them in?

I return to the inn while thinking about it.
I used “Item Box” and took out the scimitar.

Huh?

There seems to be space for things to be put in even with the scimitar.

Why did that happen?
Well, I’ll get to it after I reach the inn.
I secured the scimitar to my waist and headed towards the town of vale.

Chapter 17 - The first medicine.

I walked into the town of Vale.

It's getting late in the evening, and the city seems to be getting quieter.
There are a lot of stalls closing down for the day.

Before long, I arrive at the Vale Pavilion.
The Lv28 Hotel man is inside.

"Welcome back."

This isn't the atmosphere of a high-quality inn.

"The key?"
"Here you go."

He passes me the 311 key.

"Is dinner ready?"
"Ah, there is a menu you can choose from when you enter the dining room."
"I'd like some hot water after dinner."
"That will be 20 nars."

Oh?
The 30% discount?
I'm reluctant, but I lower the rucksack and get 20 copper coins out.

"By the way, would this become firewood?"

I change my settings from 30% discount to 30% bonus sale price, and take a branch from my rucksack to show to the man.

"Is that a branch?"
"Yes."
"The heat from it is too strong for household use. The master blacksmith uses them. He's troublesome to deal with directly so I'd sell it to the guild."

So I can only sell it to the guild.

“The first floor of the Labyrinth here seems to have lots of Needle Wood.”
“Yes.”
“The second floor has green caterpillars, and the third floor has kobolds. It’s a rough place.”

I’ve only seen Needle Woods in the Labyrinth.
The demons on other floors will be different.

He said the Labyrinth here, so other Labyrinths must have different demons as well.
From his tone of voice, it doesn’t seem like these are easy demons.

“So that’s how it is.”
“Those are the first floors. You must be quite strong to go to such a place.”

The first floors probably aren’t worth much.
I’m confident I can get to some deeper floors.
Will they be difficult?
Hmmm.

I’ll lead the conversation.

“I’ll try to go as far as possible. Where is the adventurers guild in this town?”
“Four buildings to the left.”

The man points.
Was there a building like that over there?

“Should I go now?”
“They will still buy stuff if you go immediately.”
“Thank you, please look after this.”

I pass the room key back, and leave the Vale Pavilion.

I head four doors to the left.
I enter the building of the adventurers guild.

The inside is larger than the explorer guild. It’s like a slightly big post

office.
There are 5-6 people around.
The setup with a counter inside is the same as the explorer guild.

“I’d like to make a sale.”

I stand in front of the counter.
This will be my first experience of selling in a guild.

There is a Villager behind the counter, of an age that it would be slightly strange to call her Onee-san.
I would call her face average.
But I’m comparing to Rozanne.

“Place your items here.”

The woman holds out a large tray.

“Ok.”

I pull the items out of my rucksack.
There are a total of 33 branches, and three leaves.

“You aren’t part of the adventurer’s guild?”

The woman checks.

“No, I’m not.”
“The leaf is a raw material for antidotes. If you join the adventurers guild you will be allowed to buy antidotes at half price after selling leaves here, this helps since the antidote is necessary for adventurers.”

Huh?
If there is antidote, there must be poison. The antidote would not be necessary if there wasn’t any poison.
The antidote is a necessity of any adventurer who is in danger of being poisoned.
Was it a bad idea to enter the Labyrinth without having any?

“Can I buy some antidote?”
“If you don’t join the guild, there is a set price for it.”
“How much?”

“100 nars.”
“I see.”

It’s high, but not too high.

“You can remove the poison by eating the leaf too, we sell them for 80 nars.”

Won’t you be making a loss?
The Onee-san of the adventurers guild is very kind to teach me this.

“I see, then I won’t sell the leaves.”
“Ok, just a moment then.”

As I put away the leaves, the woman disappears into the interior of the guild with the tray of branches.

I’m bored, so I look around the guild.
The left wall becomes black suddenly.
People come out of the black wall.

Is that dungeon walk?

Can you use it outside of the Labyrinth?

Two adventurers have come out. There is no explorer.

“The town of Tahera, send us that way!”

An adventurer who came out says.
Nobody reacts to what is said, a black wall appears and they disappear into that.

It’s not dungeon walk, maybe it’s something like field walk?
Or is it a different skill?

That reminds me, six people came out of a black wall just before I arrived at the Labyrinth.
The explorer must have the dungeon walk skill, and the adventurer might have field walk.
If you can travel through the Labyrinth with dungeon walk, field walk must send you to other towns.

Maybe those two people went to the town of Tahera.

Why did they come here?
As I think about it, a black wall appears again and people come out.
Six people this time. One is an adventurer from moments ago.
The six people leave the guild.

Well.
What have they been doing?

“Sorry to have kept you waiting. Here you go.”

I turn my head to see the woman has returned with a plate.
There are six silver coins on it, and after counting for a minute it seems there are 43 copper coins, so 643 nars?

I guess it isn’t bad for a branch, but it’s not high.
At this rate, a gold coin each day is just a dream within a dream.
Maybe it will be different if I stay longer, or go to a deeper floor.

I switch my 30% bonus sale price to 30% discount.
It’s troublesome.

“Aside from antidote, is there medicine sold here?”
“Disinfectant, fatigue recovery, various salves, anti-paralysis, anti-hardening, and a cure-all.”

At a guess, the salves recover HP, and the fatigue recovery recovers MP.

“How much for the anti-hardening and the anti-paralysis medicines?”
“They are 100 nars each.”

Is the price the same as the antidote medicine?

“Ok, I’ll take two anti-hardening, and two anti-paralysis.”

For the moment I’ll just buy two of each.
I don’t know how much I’ll need them, I probably won’t need large quantities.

“Certainly.”

The woman leaves for a minute, and returns quickly.
She places two white pill’s, and two yellow pill’s on the counter.

Anti-hardening.

Anti-paralysis.

“Hmm.”
“The white one is the anti-hardening, the yellow one is the anti-paralysis.”

They are split into colors?
I won’t make a mistake anyway because of my judgement skill.

I put the four silver coins on the counter.

So anti-paralysis should cure paralysis as the name implies.
What about anti-hardening.
For when the body hardens? Does petrification magic exist?

I left one of the silver coins closer to myself, but the woman took it as she counted the coins.
Sadly it seems my 30% discount does not work for this.

I put the pills and leaves away in my rucksack.

“What are the requirements for joining the adventurers guild?”
“It’s rather simple. Be an explorer over Lv 50 that is not in another guild. If you would like to join I can bring you to someone who can set it up.”
“No, not at the moment.”

I quickly turned down the offer as I placed my rucksack over my shoulder, and left the adventurers guild.

So adventurer is a higher level job for explorers? It requires explorer Lv 50?
Or maybe there is a condition that is unlocked when you join the guild.

I heard that the relationship between the Explorer & Adventurers guild was bad.
That seems likely.
From the Explorers guild’s view, the adventurers will be skipping them.

You could say that explorer's are eggs that will grow into adventurers, or from the other angle explorers are crap that didn't turn into adventurers.

I should be cautious if I consider entering a guild somewhere.

I return to the inn, and grab my key.
The dining room is right beside the foyer, and I go inside.

There are four meals on a table at the entrance to the dining room.

"You can choose your meal from these."

Aside from the Lv28 Hotel man, there is also a Hotel woman there gesturing towards the food.
Is she in charge of the dining room?

Seems like it.
There's no menu, do we just choose like this?
A lot of people probably can't read the menu.

The table only has one character written near each dish.
The same character is written on the key I have.

My key probably has 311 written on it for my room number, so the character next to the upper right dish is probably 1.

"This one."
"Certainly, would you also like something to drink?

Urk…
I expected this sooner or later, but was still surprised.
It still feels a bit strange.

"What drinks are there?"
"Beer, Wine, or Herbal tea. If you would like slime liquor then there is an extra charge."
"Just herbal tea please."
"Sure. Please sit and wait at any available seat."

In Japan I had drank a little sake, but here I don't know how much is safe to drink.
I have 33 gold coins in my rucksack to worry about too.

I sit down at a seat, and the food arrives straight away.
There's some soup in a cup, bread, a stew with vegetables, and some roast meat.
It's quite a large amount, but it needs to count as two meals for the day.

The bread is soft, and the soup and stew are both quite delicious.
The meat looks like beef and is passable. Some pepper goes nicely with it.
Wouldn't the pepper be expensive, or do I have the wrong impression?

A meal like this would sell well even in Japan.
It's quite a good meal.
The cost was slightly high, but including it feels like a good choice.

After finishing my meal, I returned to my room.
The sun has mostly gone down.
The room is red because of the last of the days light coming through the window.

Soon after I enter there is a knock at the door.

"Hello?"
"Excuse me, I've brought you hot water."

A man I hadn't seen yet brings in a tub of hot water.
He places the tub on the floor, hangs a towel on it's edge and then leaves.
It seems I don't need to tip him.

I remove my cloths, and wipe my body.
This world does not seem to have baths.
If it does, it's probably a luxury just for the rich people.

Even this hot water, 20 nars doesn't seem cheap.
It's pleasant to have though since I've been sweating.

After washing my body, I wash my underwear.
It's the only underwear I have.
I don't know what underwear is like in this world, hopefully I can buy a spare pair.

Whoops.

If there is soap and detergent I should get that too.
Maybe there isn't any since it didn't come with the hot water.

Is there a toothbrush and toothpaste?
I don't know if these exist.

I want to buy some socks too.

I can't buy anything for five days I think?
That's inconvenient.
I want a convenience store.

Aside from a shopping list, I should think about the item box.
I made it appear.

First, I put the scimitar in there. There seems to be more space now.

I try to put the rucksack in there, but it doesn't work.
Maybe it's the size? I try the drawstring bag but that doesn't work either.
The rucksack and the drawstring bag are not items, so maybe it's useless?

I pull the leaves out of my bag, and then put them in next to the scimitar.
All two went in fine.
The anti-hardening, and anti-paralysis medicines did not go in.

After moving the two leaves to the right, the two anti-hardening pills fit into a left space.
The anti-paralysis didn't go in, but they did go in further left.

Looking further left in the space, the scimitar appears.
I take out the leaves & pills.

Won't the coins go in there?

Silver Coin.

Oh, I can use judgement on it.

It didn’t even occur to me to use judgement on a coin.

With this, the fear of getting counterfeit money is gone.
But using judgement on a coin one by one is also troublesome.

I can put four silver coins into it.
In the next space I can fit four silver coins as well.

The copper coins don’t go in.
I’m not trying to mix coins, judgement doesn’t work on them either.
Copper coins don’t appear to be an item.

I pull out some gold coins.
Judgement works on them, and I can put up to four in.
It seems I can’t mix the gold and silver coins together.
So I have 4 gold coins, then 4 silver coins, then 4 silver coins.
After removing the scimitar, 4 gold coins fit in there also.

So there are four slots, and each spot can stack up to four items.
Probably because I’m explorer Lv4.
It was full with just the scimitar in it at Lv1.

I take all the coins out, and put the leaves & medicines back into the box.
The item box is probably better to hold them in case of an emergency.

I need to think about things like this.

You might consider incantation omission to be an important skill.
It requires three points.
If my first job is level four, even if I don’t cut back on points elsewhere I still have enough for incantation omission.

Currently Explorer is Lv4.
Should I swap it with Villager Lv6?

Is there a benefit if I remove Villager as my first job, and replace it with Explorer?
When I consider the item box, and dungeon walk, it is not possible to remove Explorer.

The advantage of Villager is that the level is already high.
If I raise it to Lv8, I can spend points on forcing an extra job, as well as incantation omission.
The bonus points required for the second job is just one, and the third job is two. The bonus points required for the fourth job doubles again to four.
At level 6 I have enough point to get the fourth job if I just settle for incantation shortening.

There's the possibility that Villagers level will increase faster than Explorer.
If I get to 16 spare bonus points, I can get 10x extra experience, or 10x decrease required experience to level.
Putting the job with the fastest growth as the first job will become an excellent advantage in the long run.

However, 16 bonus points is a long way off.
Also, with a fourth job my experience gain may be split into quarters so I'm not sure how beneficial force job really is.

I will make the first job Explorer.
I open my job settings.

Soldier Lv1
Effect: Small physical strength rise, Small HP rise, Skill – Rush.

Swordsman Lv1
Effect: Small physical strength rise, Small HP rise, Skill – Slash.

Merchant Lv1
Effect: Small int rise, Small spirit rise, Skill – Calc

Herbalist Lv1
Effect: Small int rise, Skill – Crude drug creation.

All of a sudden I have four more jobs.
Why did I get so many?

Perhaps after hitting Villager Lv5 I met the conditions for some jobs.
Soldier, Swordsman & Merchant probably came from this.

A Herbalist is someone who gathers medicinal herbs.

I didn't get any medicinal herbs, but I did pick up the leaves.

Well.
This might mean I'll get more jobs at Villager Lv10 & Lv20.
Should I leave Villager where it is?
Though, if there is a job that requires Villager Lv99 then that's a long way off.
Well, I'll worry about that later.

I put Explorer in as the first job.
Second is Hero Lv3, and the third one becomes Merchant.
I should test the new skills too.

Soldier's rush, and Swordsman's slash. From the name of the skills it sounds like something to use in combat.
What about the Merchant's skill?

I try to use Calc, but nothing happens, nothing changes.
It seems I can't do anything with it.
I wanted to calculate 224 x 365.

As I think about it, the number 81760 pops into my head.

Is that the answer to 224×365?
Is calc a passive skill?

At 224 nars for 365 days a year for 60 years…
4905600.
If I had 500 gold coins I could stay here until I die.
Is that right?

100×100 is 10,000. Oh, that's correct.
1 million x 1 million is 1 trillion.
….um, I don't know if that one's correct.

I remove Merchant, and put in Herbalist.

I want to use the Crude drug creation skill.
I'll use it on a leaf.

It's starting to become dark as I pull a leaf from the item box.

I use the Crude drug creation skill….

Ten antidotes appear.

Chapter 18 - Boss

It's still pitch dark when I wake up.

I went to sleep quite early last night.
It was probably around 7:00pm when I went to sleep.
Yesterday I woke up extremely early at the chiefs house so I could travel to Vale, and I was busy all day so I became very tired.

When it gets dark there is nothing to do in this world.
There's no consoles, no TVs, no PCs, no internet, no anime, there isn't even any books.

Thinking about it, I could probably go to a bar for information gathering.

But that might be troublesome.
To begin with, I was a bullied child.
If I was good at speaking to other people I probably wouldn't have been bullied.

Secondly, I should not be wandering around strange places with 33 gold coins.
With 500 gold coins one could live their whole life in this inn.
If I estimate the value of 500 gold coins is equivalent to 100 million yen then 33 gold coins in 6.6 million yen.
Even in Japan there would be few people drinking with that much cash on them.

Third, I'm not sure how much alcohol I can drink.
If I want to collect information in a bar, I need to drink.
It wouldn't be information gathering if I was the one who got drunk first.
Getting drunk and talking about earth may cause some unwanted attention too.

How much alcohol can I drink?
Alcohol might not be the same as it was on earth, and my constitution may have changed after coming to this world as well.

The intelligence card comes out of my hand now too.

Fourth, information on money-making is what I need at the moment.
Other information like what is common sense here I can just ask Roxanne about after I buy her.

Are there really money-making ideas in a bar?
More likely there would be honey traps and people trying to swindle me.
Someone like me who doesn't know the common sense of this world would be an easy target, especially since I'm carrying 33 gold coins.

Gathering information might be too dangerous.
Maybe having an early night is much better.

I held the scimitar like a hug pillow as I slept.
There are stories in Japan of master swordsman who sleep holding their swords.
I don't know if it's safe though.

I feel quite refreshed.
But outside if it still dark.
If I slept for eight hours it is probably 3:00am now.

My room does not have a toilet, so I have to go down through the lobby to get to the toilet.
There is a lantern hanging on the stairs, but it's light is very dim and it doesn't light up much.

"Are you going to the Labyrinth?"

When I get to the lobby I hear a voice behind me.

"oh.…er."

I was startled, it felt like my heart nearly stopped.

When I turn around, the Lv28 Hotel man is standing at the front desk.

"Be careful."
"Can I go out during the night?"
"Yes, there are plenty of guys who go to Labyrinths in the middle of

the night. Maybe not in our Labyrinth though because it isn't very crowded."

I see.
There isn't any difference between day & night in the Labyrinth.
Plenty of people would enter during the night, and an inn which caters towards people entering the Labyrinth would need to accommodate to that.

"You must be busy until midnight."
"We are part of the Emaro tribe. The Emaro tribe is special. We don't need much sleep, It's always difficult to explain to people from other races but it's possible for us to sleep in halves."
"Half, like right and left side?"

I learnt about a different species.
I remember a type of dolphin has it's right brain and left brain take turns sleeping. If both slept at the same time it would drown.

"Do you understand?"
"I have a bit of an idea."
"Wow, that's the first time someone's understood."

He is pleased.
The people who know there is a right and left side to the brain in this world are probably quite few.
Possibly the Emaro tribe evolved in the sea.
Maybe mermaids?
He has two legs though.

"Really?"
"People from the Emaro tribe dislike settling down. Most will take up strange jobs like working with hotels that the guild manages. The work suits us because it allows us to transfer all over the place."
"I see."

If they evolved in the sea, the custom of settling down would be quite strange to them.

I hand him the hotel key.
I go to the restroom with my rucksack over my shoulder.

There is nothing to do, so heading out to the Labyrinth now might be a good idea.

“Don’t you need a lantern?”
“I’ll be fine.”

I tried to look cool, and then went outside.

…

Damn.
It’s pitch-dark.

I can’t see even a meter in front of me.
It’s completely dark.

Isn’t there a moon in this world?
The whole sky is lit up with stars.
The light from the stars is too weak to light up where I’m walking.
Being from Tokyo, I find this darkness to be quite a shock.

Should I borrow the lantern now?
Because of the darkness it might be scary to head to the Labyrinth even with a lantern.

A ghost might blow it out.
I don’t really believe in ghosts, but I don’t yet know what mysteries there are in this world.

What should I do?
I don’t have the job of adventurer, so I can’t use field walk.

Oh, there was a warp incantation in the bonus skills.
Guessing from the name, it might be some kind of movement magic.

Meteor crash was beyond my abilities because I don’t have enough MP, but what about warp?
The amount of MP used for movement magic might be less than attack magic. Also, I’ve leveled up to Hero Lv3 now, and my MP is probably full because I had a good sleep.

I open the character settings and move the points from my bonus job skill and discount over to durandal and the warp incantation.

I face a wall of the Vale Pavilion, and think about warping. I imagine the small room with the doorway in the Labyrinth.
There should have been a wall in front of me, but when I reached out with my hand I didn't hit it.

It's a success.

Even though it's a success, I start feeling depressed.
Instead of the joy of success I get the sorrow of success.

Thoughts of "why did I bother coming here?" enter my head when I walk into the small room.
It's the small room with the doorway exiting the Labyrinth and the paths leading in three directions.
The small room was lit up, even though it's night.
Here is fine, despite the pitch darkness outside.

I don't want to use the warp ever again.
The MP it uses is probably even higher than Overwhelming.
Well, I should have expected this from a bonus incantation.

My mood feels like hell.
The only way I can get out of this depression is if I use the MP absorption from Durandal.

Suppressing feeling of not wanting to fight, I start heading down a path.
If I go right I can probably get to the second floor, but I head straight.
I don't want to go to the second floor. I don't really want to do anything.

Finally I see a Needle Wood.
I want to run away, but I hold back that desire and swing the Durandal.
A thought entered my head that I could never win, but of course I defeated it in a single blow.
When the smoke disappears a branch is left behind.

"Ah… that's it."

Feelings of relief go through my mind.

I let out a relieved sigh.

That was quite hard.
Using MP in large quantities is quite difficult.
I'd like to try to avoid it.

Kaga Michio. 17 year old male. Explorer Lv4, Hero Lv3, Soldier Lv1
Equipment: Durandal, Leather armor, Sandals.

After hunting another one, I checked my stats.
The jobs I had set are still shown even though I removed my bonus job skill.
The reason for having the third job as Soldier is because I might be able to get the Bounty Hunter job if I level it.

Also, after hunting two more demons I try the Soldiers skill Rush.
I'm not entirely sure what it did, but it felt like Durandal cut deeper.
It must be an attack skill.
It's hard to know how useful it is since I defeat demons in one swing with Durandal.

Sometimes it feels like ten minutes before I find another demon.
Are all the Labyrinths in this world like this? Or is this just a characteristic of the first floor?

This is faster than hunting Slow Rabbit's in the forest near the village though.
It's fast, but it doesn't feel like demons are appearing one after the other.

I probably came to the Labyrinth around 3:00am, so is sunrise in three hours?
Assuming I meet a demon once every ten minutes, I can hunt 18 of them in 180 minutes. I'm probably hunting more than that though.

Considering that, I decided to leave the Labyrinth after I found two leaves.
I didn't want to use the warp skill, so I used dungeon walk and then went home on foot.

The sun had just come up, so the timing was perfect.

I returned to the inn and had breakfast, then went to my room.
I use the crude drug creation on the two remaining leaves from yesterday, and the two from today, then I climb into bed for a quick nap.

The sale price in the adventurers guild is 1,878 nars.
Sale price for the antidote is 25 nars, I leave some in the item box instead of selling them all off.
So the guilds purchase price is a quarter of the sale price?

After nearly buying antidotes yesterday, and then selling them today, I wonder what the sales woman must be thinking.
Even if she thought it was strange, she didn't show it on her face.
She probably doesn't specifically remember what each person buys.

After that, I go to the Labyrinth again during the morning, and again during the afternoon.

The amount of money I made in the morning is 487 nars. I didn't sell any antidotes because I didn't return to my room, so that's just from selling branches.
I hunted until I got three leaves, and I had 25 branches to sell. It's better than the early morning because that was just two leaves and 23 branches.
25 branches is 15 nars each, plus 30% sale bonus end up at 487 nars.
The calc skill is not wrong.

In the morning, and the afternoon, I start searching the right side of the Labyrinth.

The dungeon walk seems to not only go to the room with the doorway, but to similar rooms as well.
I was able to go to the room that had the knight party in it yesterday.
The small room that had the large number of demons looked similar, but I'm unable to dungeon walk to there.
I'm not sure what the difference is.

There is a small room that I discovered along the right hand path that I can dungeon walk too, so I use that in the afternoon to search deeper from there.

I continue on while defeating Needle Woods.
I got lost a bit, and then found the small room that the two leaves appeared in.

A wall slides down with a nice sound, and another small room appears.
There were two parties waiting inside.

It looks like they are waiting in line.
I sit down at the end of the line.
I'm not sure why they are lined up, or if it is actually a line.

After a while, another party comes in behind me.
Six people with explorers and soldiers of reasonably low level.

"Line up."

The six people tried to pass and are shouted at by a man in the front.

It is.
I was right when I saw the arrangement.
It's that kind of mood.

I'm glad I understood.
I wasn't sure if I'd be fine reading the mood as a Japanese person in this world, but looks like I'm alright.

A door in the front opens up, and the party at the front head in.
Is this what you were waiting for?

"Is this your first time in the Labyrinth?"
"Yes."

The female explorer sitting in front of me starts to speak.

"There's a room ahead the leads to the second floor. There's a boss there. If you defeat the boss you can get to the second floor."
"Ah, Thank you."

So that's why we are lined up?
I listened well to what the kind woman was saying.
I will call her Nee-san.

“When the previous party is defeated, the equipment they had is left behind. That’s fate.”

Nee-san looked at me and grinned.
I take back my previous thought.
The kindness was a lie.

When I die in there, my equipment, Durandal, will go to the party behind me.
Oh, if Nee-san’s party is defeated, their gear will become mine.

“I see.”
“The bosses are a lot stronger than the Needle Woods. If your not confident then you should go back.”
“No, it’s fine.”

She’s an explorer Lv5, and she seems quite confident.
Despite being Lv5.

Before long the previous door opens, and Nee-san’s party enters.
The level of Nee-san’s party is higher than the party behind me, so I don’t think they’ll be annihilated.

Will I be alright?
Well, there’s Rush, and Overwhelming, as well as Durandal.

On the first floor I probably can’t earn one gold piece a day, so I need to make this decision.
I have to go down.

Did Nee-san win? The door opens again.
I hold Durandal and enter.

After I enter, the door closes.
It’s a normal square room of about 4-5 meters.
Nee-san, didn’t lose.
She seems to have passed by safely.

Smoke gathers in the back of the room, and a demon appears.

Udo Wood Lv1

It’s a demon that looks like a larger version of the Needle Wood.

It’s taller than me, it’s got a green trunk, and has long branches sticking out instead of hands and feet.

While observing the Udo Wood, a blue light appears near it’s feet.
A magic formation.
まずい。
That’s bad.

Seeing the blue shine, it looks like it will be effective.
It’s the first time I’ve seen it so I don’t know what it does, but it definitely seems dangerous.
Is it a magic attack?
There’s also the possibility of support magic or defense magic, though it’s better if they don’t use it.
There’s no time to watch it.

I raise Durandal as it charges in.
I drive the sword into it’s shoulder using Rush. Durandal stops several millimeters into it’s shoulder. Even if I use Rush it seems I can’t win in one blow.

However, the magic formation disappears.
Is this the incantation interruption skill that Durandal has?
The demon can’t speak, it can’t use incantations and has to instead use magic formations. The magic formation is taking the place of the incantation, so the interruption spell works on it?

The Udo Wood swings the branch that was on the magic formation.
Durandal is still stuck in the demons shoulder so I can’t block.
I manage to pull Durandal from his shoulder as he swings, but I’m struck by the attack.

The blow hits me, and causes some shock.
Udo Wood’s attack power seems to be higher than the Needle Wood and Slow Rabbit.
The Needle Wood’s attacks were already quite heavy.

He swings the branch again, and I hear the sound of it cutting through the air.
I blocked it with Durandal.
He continuously attacks with the right branch, and I avoid it by

moving my body.

After the exchange I saw an opening and drove Durandal into it.
A return comes from the left, but I avoid it.
If I can clearly see his movement then it's not an enemy I can't fight.

Udo Wood cuts the distance between us.
I blocked a branch from the right with the sword.
A branch is swung from the left as well.

Crap.
Was the branch from the right a feint?

I can't avoid it this time.

I use Overwhelming and charge into motion with Durandal.
The demons branches move slowly, there is little room for me to escape and I swing with Durandal as I dodge.
The branch whistles past a millimeter from me.

Udo Wood collapses to the ground.
Somehow I've managed to defeat it.
The body shakes wildly, becomes smoke, and disappears.

Wand Cane.

There is a branch remaining.
Should I call this a stick? It's bigger than a branch.
It seems to be a cane, so it's some kind of weapon.

There is nothing else.
Even though it's a boss room there is no treasure chest.
So the only things left behind would be from the previous party?

A door on the far side opens up because the boss has been defeated.
I put the cane in the item box.
I double check the area for items, and then look for the way to the next floor.

Chapter 19 - The Second Floor

Hello. I'm a new recruit. I'm sorta kinda learning Japanese so expect quite a few mistakes.//

The neighboring room contained only a black wall/obstacle.

After entering that black barrier, after an instant of darkness, I came out into a small room much resembling the one on the entrance of the first floor.

It's dimensions were about 4-5 meters in each direction. Similar to the first floor, there were two paths stretching in the right and left directions.
Behind me was the black barrier that I had entered from. This too, resembles the one on the first floor.
If I were blindfolded and brought to both places, I wouldn't be able to tell the difference.

Dungeon Walk is probably usable here, so I can come and go as I please.
Shall I give it a try?

No. Even if I succeeded in my attempt, I don't know whether I'll be teleported to the second floor or some other place.

If I exit through the black barrier behind me, will I be returned to the same place from earlier?
Let's try that out first.

I exited through the black barrier.

After passing through the pitch black space, I abruptly exited into a dazzling place.
It's the labyrinth's entrance.
The explorer was standing outside same as yesterday.

My eyes haven't really adjusted, but from the looks of it, it'll be nightfall in a few hours.

I've finally come out. I think this is enough action for today.

From the opposite side of the road, a party of six came along.
The explorer of the party started conversing with the explorer's standing at the Labyrinth's entrance.

"How far did you get"
"The fourth floor."
I listened attentively to their conversation from the side while pretending to confirm the contents of my rucksack.
Information gathering is important.

The party's explorer peeked at the Knight's expression.
The knight seems to be especially significant within the party.
Probably something like that, anyways.

"Was there anything on the fourth floor?"

asked the knight, directly addressing the explorers standing at the entrance.

"Mino. From the first floor onwards, there were needle wood, green caterpillar and kobolds"

"We've dispatched the kobold's of the third floor. Let's begin from the fourth floor."

Looks like the combination of this labyrinth's monsters was a failure after all.
The knight nodded at the party's explorer.

"We have 800-1000 items. Item box, open!" (Some chuuni chant.)

That is the incantation for summoning the item box.
The party's explorer retrieves something from it.

A silver coin.

Though I didn't get a good look at it, the retrieved thing is a silver coin.
Appraisal is useful after all.

The explorer at the entrance received it, it was a silver coin after all.

“Responding to the faith of companions, I have read the honesty of their hearts, Party Formation” (thanks for the TL thedefend)

The explorer at the entrance continues his chanting.
Is that the party formation spell?

As I was pondering the reason for the party formation, the party’s explorer, accompanied by two others, entered the dungeon.
And then swiftly returned.

An adventurer from the knight’s party repeated the party formation spell’s chant.

“Great. Let’s start from the fourth floor.”
On the knight’s declaration, six people entered the labyrinth.
After confirming their disappearance into the dungeon , I also set out towards town.

What did they go there for?
The two explorers have probably explored the labyrinth to the fourth floor.

The explorers can utilize dungeon walk to transfer to any previously visited location within the labyrinth.
I’ve seen the place the six transfer to a number of times. Not only the chanter, but also the party members with him are transferred.

The explorers standing at the labyrinth’s entrance are guides who guide parties till the fourth floor.
Explorers from a newly formed party have not entered the labyrinth before.
It seems that if they form a party, the guides can take along those explorers who haven’t previously visited the fourth floor.
After being taken along once, seems like those explorers also gain the ability to teleport their respective parties to the fourth floor.

Also, if the party members do not exceed five, the guide can take along the whole party with them.
It is a well thought out strategy.

I should also make use of this.
But if I go to the lower floors, the monsters are going to strengthen

too.
Since I don't have a grasp of my strength, It would be safest to sequentially go through the floors.

The two adventurers that came out of the Adventurer's guild yesterday did the same thing.

There are two adventurers who can use field walk、if I'm teleported by either once to another town, I'll also be able to travel between the towns.
In this world, the flow of people is unrestricted and frequent.

Putting a little distance between the labyrinth and myself, I erased Durandal through Character Reset.
My bonus points had increased by one. I seem to have leveled up without realizing it.
If I remove Boost critical rate and Boost MP regeneration rate which I don't know how to use in addition to warp, I can acquire the Fourth job which costs 4 points.
I adjusted my jobs with the job settings panel.

Kaga Michio, Male, 17 Years Old
Explorer Lv.8, Hero Lv.6, Soldier Lv.5, Swordsman Lv.1
Equipment: Scimitar, Hide Armour, Sandal Boots

To call my growth astounding would be a bit of a boast.

My earnings from selling off herbal medicine I made upon returning to the inn amount to 1911 nars.
My earnings from today amount to 4276 nars.
There's also the portion from the leaves I gathered yesterday, but since I didn't sell my wand, the balance comes up to more or less the same amount.
Since the wand is classified as equipment and not an item, I doubt I can sell it, even to an arms merchant.

Though it doesn't amount to one gold coin, I wonder if this is a fair amount of earning for one day.
I'd probably spend more money if I arranged my equipment, bought clothes and other daily necessities.
As of now, I have spent 224 nars on hotel expenses and 20 nars on

hot water.
As to why my discount perks were ineffective when reserving hot water is a mystery.

After eating dinner,I'll retire for the night.
I've become completely accustomed to an early to bed, early to rise lifestyle.

After the sun sets, there is really nothing to do around here.
There's the option of exploring the labyrinth, but falling asleep midway would be lethal.

The sooner I go to sleep,the sooner morning will arrive.
Thus, I'll be exploring the labyrinth's dark interior tomorrow too.

After removing the Job setting and activating warp again, I came to the entrance of the second floor.
Appearance wise, it is impossible to tell apart from the small room on the first floor, but this is it,probably.

I wasn't particularly affected by the warp this time around.
Is that thanks to my level up?
Having said that, I have no intentions of continuously using it. That was really tough on my body.

Since the entranceway to the second floor from the first was on the right side, let's try the left path.
From the onset, I was confronted with a crossroad.
This is different from the first floor. Proves I've arrived at the second floor safely.

Needlewood Lv.2

The first monster I encountered was a Needlewood, same as the one's on the first floor.
Aren't the monsters on the 2nd floor supposed to be different? (Thanks thedefend)
It's probably called Lv.2 since it's on the second floor.

I slashed diagonally with Durandal and slew the monster with one blow.
The Needlewood may have been strengthened to Lv.2, but with

Durandal one shot is all it takes after all.

My level up probably factors in a bit too.
It could possibly also be the effect of four simultaneous active jobs.
Is what I'd like to believe.

Green Caterpillar Lv.2

I encountered a Green Caterpillar next.
Oh right. The second floor had Green Caterpillars
Does the second floor contain only these two monsters?

A huge green hornworm.
Frankly, it's quite disgusting.
It's a soft and flabby larvae of about a medium sized dog's size. Despite the appearance, it's insides may be packed with muscles.

The hornworm quickly approached me //After observing it, I swiftly approached it. I swung Durandal down on it from above.

Thread.

A one-hit kill this time around too.
After the green smoke dissipated, a bundle of yarn was left over.

Even though I hunted quite a number after that but the only monsters that spawned were Green Caterpillar Lv.2 and Needle Grass Lv.2.
These two monsters seem to be the characteristic/typical of the second floor.

While pondering on that, I encountered both monsters at once next.

Needlewood Lv.2
Green Caterpillar Lv.2

Are they a group or did they just happen to be together?
Excluding the small room where a large amount of monsters were lurking, this is the first time I've met monsters in pairs.

First I drove Durandal into the approaching Needlewood.
When I shifted my attention to the green caterpillar,I saw an orange magic formation beneath it's chest.
The magic formation swiftly disappeared, and the Green Caterpillar

spat something out.

It’s thread.

The thread covered up my front.
It came flying while spreading in every direction. It was like I was watching the spider’s thread in a Kabuki Dance (Spider’s thread is probably a specific dance)
Wielding Durandal, I was able to fend off some of it but was unable to defend against all of it.

The thread I wasn’t able to defend against twined around my hands, feet and head.
Disgusting. Not only that, it also made movement very difficult.
It pretty much felt like being tied up with sticky tape.

While I was struggling to regain my arm’s mobility, I ended up taking a body blow from the caterpillar.
I was somehow able to bear it with my impaired legs. I swung Durandal downwards.

Due to either being unaffected by the thread’s restriction, or due to it’s crushing amount of offensive power, it still took only one strike from Durandal to down it.

Thread.

The thread entangling my body disappeared along with the monster.
The loot was a common thread.

The attack from before seems to be a special attack to impair opponents.
Handling one or two wouldn’t probably be much of a problem. But what if they show up in a group?
Like in the small room on the first floor…….

This is unsettling.
I can think of nothing but unnerving outcomes

If several green caterpillars were to surround me, they’d immobilize me with thread from all directions,and when I’m immobile they’d shower me in blows.

If my movements were to slow down, not only would my extermination rate go down, Durandal's HP regeneration rate would also be affected.
Will I be able to withstand attacks from monsters in that state?

Would it be better to think of countermeasures beforehand?

I could also choose to not adopt any measures.
I'll deal with it after giving it some more thought.
I wonder if the small room which spawned a large no of monsters , is a considerably rare trap.

On the first floor was the knights six man party including apprentices.
A low level party was also waiting outside the boss spawning room.
Can these people even handle the massive horde of monsters in the small room?
Though I was somehow able to hold my own due to Durandal, I believe this low leveled party will not stand a chance.
Yet their presence here despite that implies that the risk of encountering monsters in large groups is actually pretty low.

If the encounter rate was high, low leveled parties wouldn't be hanging around the dungeon.
Since they are, it proves that the encounter rate is pretty low.

Though I personally feel that their being way too optimistic, it may as well be that way.
Such an under-leveled party is also exploring the second floor. If they can do it, then so can I.

However dropping my guard would be foolish.
Anyone who does that in a labyrinth is headed for certain death.
What happens once can happen again.
I should stay on my toes at all times.

Now then, what sort of counter measure should I adopt?

The first counter measure would be to continuously level up.
Not only will that increase my extermination rate, but it'll also boost my HP and physical prowess.
If I level to the point where a green caterpillar's attacks are as

effective as a mosquito's bite, it won't be a problem even if I'm ganged up on.

However it is troubling to think of the amount of leveling needed to achieve this.
Also, I have no method of judging as to what level can safely take attacks from multiple opponents.
There's a time limit on Roxanne's purchase too. I can't exactly be going around carefreely grinding. I have to quickly reach the bottom floors and raise that money.

Another counter measure would be to learn an attack that affects multiple opponents.
If group lynching is my concern, might as well collectively attack the whole group.

Neither Overwhelming nor Rush are AOE skills (TLN AOE=Area of Effect).
I also tried out the swordsman class's slash skill but it was pretty much the same as the rush skill. More like, slash might just be the swordsman variant of rush.

The real issue is that attacking multiple opponents with a sword is incredibly difficult.
It's pretty much impossible without a cloning skill.

If swords are no good, then there's magic.
With magic, AOE attacks are possible.

I heard from the town's merchants that to become a sorcerer, you have to drink a special potion before turning five.
Probably an item of some sort.
Meaning I, who have long since passed the age of 5, am unable to become a sorcerer?

So far as the possibility is concerned, I'll just have to try using it.
When I stole, I got the thief job. When I worked the fields, I gained the farming job and upon entering the labyrinth, I gained the explorer job. I got the Herbalist job by picking herbs.
That being the case, if I cast magic even once, I should be able to get the sorcerer job.

Although, it seems it can't be acquired through movement or space magic.
It's quite obvious if you think about it. If you could become a sorcerer just by casting dungeon walk, then all the explorers would become sorcerers by default.

Rather than space or movement magic, the sorcerer job is only obtainable on casting offensive magic.
Since sorcerer's are offensive mages.

I became a trader by selling, a soldier by fighting, a swordsman by wielding a blade.
Thus I only gained them after satisfying the conditions for them.
Going with that logic, I need to use offensive magic to become a sorcerer.

Which came first, the chicken or the egg?
If you're a sorcerer you can use offensive magic but to become a sorcerer, you have to use offensive magic (TLN This guy's retarded.)
I might need a special item to achieve this.

But I happen to have bonus spells.
They should be usable even if I can't use typical magic.
As demonstrated by my use of warp magic.

If I use the offensive bonus skills, I should be able to acquire the sorcerer job.
Looks like it's finally time to use the offensive spells which were unusable when I was a Lv.1 Hero.

Chapter 20 - Wizard

Meteor crash!
It is the bonus incantation which I lacked MP at the time of hero lvl 1.

Am I able to use it now? I have piled up four jobs and Hero has increased to lvl 6.

If the Wizard job can be acquired by using the meteor crash, that's great.

Even if I do not obtain the Wizard job, I might acquire a weapon to kill groups of enemies, and that was the purpose from the beginning.

I prayed to reset my character.
One bonus point remains. My explorer lvl seems to have risen.
Warp is removed, the jobs are set and bonus points are put into the bonus incantation meteor crash.

Just in case, I have moved to the first layer of the labyrinth by a dungeon walk.
I hunt two needle woods to fill up my MP.

And for the demon who appeared next.

Eat this!
Meteor crash!

……

I pray and watched around, but nothing has happened.

Was it useless?

The needle wood tries to reach me, shake's a branch and attacks.
I killed it with durandal out of necessity.

Don't you have enough MP yet with hero Lv6?
How much MP will be necessary?

It must be a magic with a lot of power if it consumes that much MP.

That's the only thing I can think of.
I am looking forward to the time I can use it.

The meteor crash couldn't be used, but I don't feel down particularly.
It was within my expectations.

Hmmm, are there those kind of things too?
I do a character reset again.

Total MP release.
It's this.

It is a magic that uses up all currently present MP for a single magic attack.
Usually an attack magic can't consume all of the MP but with this setting it can become zero.
I do not think that my MP is not enough.

The problem is that the MP needs to become zero.
If the MP becomes zero will it be all right?
At least there should not be a problem. Unlike the total release of HP there will be no danger to my life.

Lets try it out near the small room where I encounter the beautiful female knight the other day. Just in case I should be able to escape from there immediately. Because demons don't seem to appear there it will be a suitable escape place.

I thought about the small room of the doorway, but a place where other people might pass by is not suitable. Though there might be the advantage that it is possible to run outside if there is an emergency, it's also a pitch black night outside at the moment. The risk however will not change.

I look for a demon near to the entrance of the small room. But no demon appears easily, maybe it is too hard for them to appear that near to a room where they cannot spawn.

At last I found a needle wood a bit away on the left side of the entrance. Can I attack it to follow me?
I turned my back on the demon and started running towards the small room.

In the place I am running from I was exposed to an attack from the back. The needle wood seems to move faster than I thought.

Turning around I stared at the demon.
Then I activated the total MP release.

Something comes off out of my body. It is a very unpleasant feeling at the same time. MP is spiritual energy? Maybe that's it.

It's a success.
No, I have succeeded.
Even if I should have failed.

The needle wood in front of me explodes.
It becomes smoke and scatters.
What have I done?

I am certainly dead if caught in such a place by other demons. I am weak.
I have no talent either. I am stupid and have no merits ever. I am the lowest of man.
Let's live in this different world. The doubts are extreme.
A satisfactory place for me to live was not found on earth. It's the best to expect a dog's death in the place I am.

A beautiful woman like Roxanne shall be obtained by me? Surely she will not even notice me. That is a trap of the slave trader. It is a plot. It is trickery. It is fraud.

I pick up the branch and jump into the small room. When you pick up the branch at such time. Happy. I am Happy too! Who is a trivial, ugly miser?

I rested in the small room. To be trampled in a place like this is what a guy like me deserves.

It might be safe in this small room. To secure an escape place beforehand, how bad can a guy mess up? Try to think. This present state of me is a consequence of emptying my MP.

How to recover from it? I can only use the MP absorption of durandal. But how to do it when you fled in a place where no

demons are?

My safe place was not prepared for a situation like this, it was necessary to choose a place where I could concentrate on fighting one demon even if it is unpleasant now. It looks like the idea itself was unskilled. There is nothing more fearfully than an incompetent supporter who is motivated. Because I tried to use an unfinished plan, it came to this situation.

Then should I go out? I should think about it. Is it stupid? Am I a fool? Or an idiot? If I go out now I might not even meet a demon. It is suitable for a coward like me to be frightened in this small room where demons not even can appear.

No, does a demon really not appear here?
Who decided such a thing?
It is speculation.
It is only wishful thinking of a fool like me.

Yes, it's like that. Even here it might not be safe.
Let's run away!
Escape!
But where to go?

I do not know of safe places.
Where ever I go there will be enemies, it will be dangerous everywhere.
Even in this refugee I cannot rest.
I will surely die in here.

I gathered willpower and somehow managed to go outside of the small room.

Go back! Do you want to die?
No. Even if I return, it's the same situation.
A demon will come to this place sooner or later.
Anyway, I cannot defeat a demon.

It's like this. This will be my graveyard.

I begin to walk unsteadily.
I should have bought MP recovery potions in the adventurer's guild

at least.
I am a fool not to notice such a thing from the beginning.
It's cruel reality to die a dog's death here.

A needle wood appeared in the depths of the cave.

Run away.
I am still in time.
I should be able to rush into the small room of a little while ago.

No. I am not in time.
I cannot be in time.

While I hesitate, the needle wood approaches.
Partly unconscious I shake durandal.
Is it survival instinct? Or is it muscle memory that let me keep fighting?

The tip of my sword durandal catches the demon. The needle wood is cut and collapses.

Even in such a state the demon is defeated with one swing of the sword.
Even if I feel depressed, the offensive ability of durandal seems to be unchanged.
When saying that it's natural, is it natural?

I was discouraged and let out a breath. It was a close call.

It was not perfect, but MP seemed to be restored somewhat, too.
The pessimism until a while ago becomes light as if mist thins out.

This was dangerous.
It was really hard.
I was never depressed like this before.
Is this the downside of bringing MP to zero?
I don't want to suffer such a thing twice.

It's alright. I can do it if I have to.
I persuade myself.

I looked around and as if to celebrate my recovery a leaf was left

behind by the needle wood.

Furthermore, I hunted three needle woods and recovered MP.
The pessimism from before faded away as if it was never there from the beginning.

I check my job settings.

Wizard lvl 1
Effects: small rise in intelligence, small rise in MP recovery.
Skill: beginner fire magic, beginner water magic, beginner wind magic, beginner earth magic.

There it was. Even though I had problems acquiring it.

The beginner's class fire magic, it might be powerful.
Am I able to use it now?

I replace the job swordsman Lv 2 with wizard Lv 1.

I went to the second floor.
I might not have good attack magic yet, but the second floor should still be alright even without a safe room.

While walking through the dungeon I concentrate on the beginner level fire magic.
Nothing happens.

Fire! Flame! Burn! Fire magic! Incinerate! fireball!
I try focusing on various words, and something above me lights up.

I seem to have made a fireball.

Oh!
Yes!
It's a fireball.

The fireball flies forward.

It's a success.
Finally I have magic.

I watch the fireballs destination.
It's an amazing feeling being able to practice magic.

I created a fireball.
I choke up with emotions from the feeling of coming to such an amazing world.
Sure I had the movement magic, and space magic already, but fire magic is special.
I caused a natural phenomenon with my own power.
I'm overflowing with emotion.

Previously I've emotionally hit bottom, but this will be something I can fondly remember.
I should also try out the wind magic.

The fireball continues down the cave until it disappears.

For a while I revel in the joy of becoming a wizard.
Nothing really changed, I'm still the same person.
However, I am now able to conjure magic.

A Green Caterpillar appears, and I use Durandal on it to recover MP.
Following that I throw a fireball at a Needle Wood.

The tree demon is covered in fire.
Wow.
It's amazing.
As expected of magic.

The fire goes out rather quickly.
Apparently I can't defeat it in one shot.
The demon comes at me while smoke still comes from it.
Well, it's beginner level magic so the damage is low, but the damage done appears to be causing the demon to move slower.
I swing Durandal at the approaching Needle Wood. It cuts it down in a single swing without problem.

If the beginner class fire magic is a fireball, is the beginner class magic for water a water ball?
I finish of another demon and then try to use water ball.
A ball of water appears over my head, and goes forwards.

Is this water magic?

I kill a Green Caterpillar to replenish my MP, and then try the water

ball on a Needle Wood.
The demon flinches slightly, but recovers immediately and charges at me.
There are no signs that it had any effect.
I wait, and strike it with Durandal when it gets near.

The Needle Wood is a plant type demon, so fire magic is probably more effective than water magic.
I'll have to research it later.

Next is to try out wind magic.
Is there a wind ball?

I try it but nothing happens.

Wind arrow! Wind storm! Wind cutter!
Still nothing.

I thought that the wind magic would be a ball because the fire magic and water magic were both balls.

Wind ball! Air Ball! Gust ball! Gale ball! Typhoon ball! Tornado ball! Breeze ball!
There it is.

A breeze ball appears above my head and flies forwards.
It's probably a ball of wind, but I can't see it.
I can hear it however.

A gentle breeze, the beginner level wind magic.
The tornado is not at the beginner level.

I hunt a demon to recover some MP, and then look for another to test it on and two appear.

Needle Wood Lv2

Needle Wood Lv2

There seems to be groups of two monsters on the second floor as well.
I'll see if the fireball is effective on multiple enemies.

I use the fireball while glaring at the two demons.
The fireball appears… and passes between the two demons.

…well. That's how it is.
Even though there are two demons, two fireballs did not appear.
You have to aim at a target properly to hit it with a fireball.
Since I tried to specify two demons it just went between them.

I swing Durandal horizontally while aiming at the left Needle Wood.
The saint sword tore through the Needle Wood.
A branch is left behind as I continue my swing through the right Needle Wood. I cut off it's head and it's defeated.

There are two branches now, and I put them into the rucksack.

The fireball doesn't seem to be that strong a magic.
It's good for using on an enemy at a distance, but it only targets one.

Isn't there an AoE attack?
Fire arrow, Fire wall…
As I focus on it a wall of fire appears nearby.

It's about a meter wide and two meters high.
The fire continues to burn for about ten seconds.

A fire wall.
It feels like more of a defensive magic than an attack magic.
Would it be useful for me to use when surrounded by enemies?

Isn't there an AoE attack magic?
Hell Flame! Burn attack! Volcano Erupt!
Nothing. Well, the fire wall might be similar to the fireball in setting things alight.

Fire Strike! Fire attack! Fire storm!
There is a feeling of something happening in my body.

MP was used.
Fire Storm seems to be something.

However, even though it feels like MP was used, nothing happens.
Did it fail?

Maybe not, it could be because there are no enemies here.
Maybe it's a magic whic automatically targets demons.

I hunt two demons to recover some MP.
A Green Caterpillar appears and I use Fire Storm on it.

Red sparks dance around the cave, it feels like looking at fireflies.
The sparks gather around the demon, and attack the Green Caterpillar.
The Green Caterpillar burns red.
Although it looks quite painful, the demon endures it until it goes out completely.

It seems I can't defeat one with a single Fire Storm.
I drive Durandal into the head of the caterpillar dealing a decisive blow and it turns to smoke.

Fire Storm is the right magic name.
How does it recognize enemies? Or does it only target demons?
Well, now I should confirm if it's an AoE attack magic.
Should I look for two demons now?

Maybe I'll try it later.
I'll head outside now.

It's still dark outside the Labyrinth. When I look towards Vale I can see a pale light coming from the other side.
Soon it will be sunrise.

That was perfect.
I don't have a watch or a phone, but after coming to this world it feels like my biological clock has become more accurate.
Actually, there may just be a good balance with how exhausted I am.
I mustn't get overconfident about it.

I go back to the hotel for breakfast, and then return to the Labyrinth afterwards.
I go to the second floor again and hunt some more demons with Durandal to recover MP while I test out some more magic.

A Green Caterpillar is the first thing I see, and I launch a breeze ball at it.

It’s still not possible to defeat it in one shot, but there is a visible wound on the caterpillar so it definitely did damage.

After hunting some more demons to recover MP I test out water wall on the next Needle Wood I come across.
A wall of water appears in front of me.
It’s about the same size as the fire wall, though made of water instead.

Since it isn’t like a rapid stream I doubt it can prevent a demon from getting through.
Is this how you defend yourself while an ally is using fire magic?

After a little time passes the wall collapses and water goes over the floor.
The water scatters everywhere.
It also got on my pants.

The water doesn’t seem to disappear easily, unlike the fire.
Is that common?
I’m not sure, I don’t understand the reason.

Can you really just make water? To test it out I throw a water ball at the wall.
It splashed into the wall, and then dripped down the wall.

Water can be made.
Water magic seems to be quite convenient.
When I get thirsty I can use it.
I’m not sure if it’s fresh water though.

After defeating a Needle Wood with Durandal, I try out the breeze wall.
There seems to be a wall of wind.
I can hear it.

It’s invisible though, so I’m not sure about it’s dimensions.
I’m not sure how useful it is since I can’t see it, but I try it in front of a Green Caterpillar.

Here we go.
As I wait, the demon stops before the breeze wall.

An orange magic formation appears under the Green Caterpillar.

I failed.
Even though I can't understand it's dimensions, the Green Caterpillar seems to know them.
Also, the wall of wind is obstructing me from going there.

After a short time the demon shoots thread.
He seems to have timed it with the breeze wall disappearing.

It failed even there.
While there was a wall I could have run away at least.

The thread entangles me.
As I struggle to free myself I am hit by the body of the Green Caterpillar.
I struggle to swing Durandal as the demon attempts another body blow.
The demon is defeated, and thread is left behind.

Since I was able to defeat it in one blow things didn't get out of hand.
The wall of magic seems to be hard to use well.
How should I use it?

Should I have defended with a fire wall when the demon shot it's thread?
I failed.

The other walls of magic were only a meter in width, so I probably could have gone around it and attacked.
If I want to block of a passage in the cave I'll have to use two walls.

Since I've already tested the fire, water and wind, next is earth magic.
What is earth?
A sand ball.

Nice! I guessed it straight away.
A ball of soil appears above me and flies off.
Or should I call it a ball of sand since it's sand ball?

After hunting a demon I test out the sand wall.
It was a wall of soil, the soil version of the fire wall.
After some time passes it collapses and leaves sand on the ground, just like the water wall.
There isn't any use for the sand, even if I can make it with magic.

Green Caterpillar Lv2

Green Caterpillar Lv2

After I hunt another demon to recover some MP, two Green Caterpillars appear.
This is good.

I use fire storm.
The sparks start to dance and attack both of the demons, dying both in red.
It is an AoE attack.

It's not likely that I can defeat them with just one fire storm.
I have to defeat them before they shoot thread.
I swing Durandal at the Caterpillar on the right while he is covered in fire.
I then swing Durandal at the left Caterpillar, just as the fire goes out.

Chapter 21 - Green Light

All things considered, I can use 3 types of spells from four elements, a total of 12.
There may be others, but I don't know.
Fire-hit, Fire-shoot, Fire-tornado, I have tried various things that came to mind, but it didn't work.

I can use ball for single target attacks, a wall for protection and area of effect storm attack – those three types.
For each magic types the words used are: fire magic – fire*, water magic – water*, wind magic – breeze*, earth magic – sand.
(TLN*: He describes here the pronunciation of words while casting. So it's not "Hi no tama" for fireball but actually "Faiyaboru").

Water magic and wind magic also don't seem to be used for healing and movement respectively.
I have tried spells like "Water Heal" or "Wind Wing" and although it didn't work I can't deny the possibility.

For now what I can use should do.
Next I'll test if I can defeat a monster with only magic.

Needle Wood Lv2

I present it with a fire-storm.
Only one appeared, but in preparation for group fights testing the fire-storm should be good.
I can feel the MP loss. Compared to single target "ball attack" the "storm attack" consumes more MP.

Sparks dance and attack the Needle Wood. The plantlike monster starts burning.
I couldn't defeat it in one blow, so I fired a second.
The second one still didn't finish it.
The monster approaches.

I got attacked before I could fire for the third time. The swung branch hit me.

The approaching burning red shape signals danger.

Suppressing the feeling of wanting to flee, I fire a third fire-storm.
I don't feel like winning, but I tell myself that it will all be good if I respond calmly.
In case of emergency I can use Durandal for a one-hit kill.

I dodged the branch by a hair's breath.
The third storm stills seems to not be enough.

I begin to cast a forth fire-storm.
It's not like it won't ever fall.
While evading the swinging branch negative thoughts start sprouting in my mind.

In the midst of flames the monster swings a branch.
I can't keep evading forever.
At this rate I'll die.
I have to somehow run.

Just when I turned around and begun running away the Needle Wood fell down.

Branch

Even though it fell from burning the dropped item seems OK.
I pick up the tree branch and put it in the backpack.

To defeat Needle Wood Lv2 four hits from fire-storm seem necessary.
I feel pretty down but I managed to cast four times.

I don't know whether to stay or leave.
Its good and all that I fired four times, but continuous casting twice is dangerous.
Maybe fire-storm costs twice as much when there are two enemies.
I wonder.

This is not good.
My thoughts became negative.
Its can't tell whether it is truly like that or its the negative thoughts.

I killed two monsters with Durandal and calmed down.

So far there was no instance of two monsters coming one after another.
Neither in the many small rooms on the first level, nor in the cave.
There was considerable time between monster appearances.
I can't ignore this, but i shouldn't become obsessed over the possibility of consecutive monster appearances.

There is also the fact that fire-storm consumes more MP than fireball.
AOE magic costing more MP than single target magic would suggest that when there are more enemies the chance of it costing more MP is very low.
Even if the number increases, it should become a little easier.

While judging calmly, being able to defeat with four fire-storms I'll somehow manage.
Needle Wood and Green Caterpillar are not so different. It won't be ten times in ten.(TLN: Bad TL)

This way the first objective of finding a way to deal with multiple monsters is complete.

Next I should think how to fight with magic as the core.
If I'm going to fight with magic, I'll put Durandal away.
If I put Durandal away I'll have 6 bonus points to assign to skills.

The points for being able to use Durandal are six weapon points for a total of 63 points.
By not using Durandal, both "Required Experience Reduction (1/10)" and "Gained Experience (x10)" costing 16 points, 32 points are used, but I can use both.(TLN: Possible bad translation – sorry I suck with translating calculations/counting.)
Right now I have "Required Experience Reduction (1/5)" and "Gained Experience (x5)", so picking "Gained Experience (x8)" is efficient.

Not having Durandal is scary to say the least.
It has the attack power to kill monsters with one hit, HP absorption and MP absorption.

By having HP absorption it is not so much of a problem when getting hit and MP absorption allows to continuously use skills.
As long as I fight using Durandal, I most likely won't die on this floor.

Removing Durandal I feel fear.
It is really discouraging.

Should I pick safety or experience x8.

Picking safety would dictate that I use Durandal like up until now.
Of course would be useful in a pinch.
But describing the actual situation is a bit troublesome.

I can think of a few possibilities.
A very strong boss suddenly appears.
Or possibly I feel needless anxiety.(TLN: I think he is talking about the negativity from mana deprivation)

Labyrinth is a battlefield, and just being on the battlefield a 100% safety is impossible.
Its not needless anxiety, but anything can happen on the battlefield after all.

But from another point of view, as long as one steps into the battlefield that is a labyrinth, one has to take the risk.
There won't be any gain without betting.

If I think about it, it's probably better to take the 8x experience bonus.
Getting to a higher level will decrease the risk in the long run.

I've confirmed that I can defeat a demon with just magic.
Logically this means that I don't need Durandal.
If I can defeat a demon with just magic then Durandal is overkill.

That decides it.
I removed my points from Weapons 6.

While I use magic I'll have to keep pulling out Durandal.
My MP recovery relies on Durandal's MP absorption after all.
It will be good if I can buy some MP recovery medicine.
If I get into trouble I can still use Durandal as well.

My bonus points have increased by another point, and I'm able to get the 10x decrease in required experience plus the 10x boost to obtained experience.
I removed the point from MP release as well and put it in increased MP recovery. The stats show the MP recovery has doubled.
That will help out a bit.

I take the wand & scimitar from the item box.
I haven't tried it yet since I was using Durandal, but the wand may be useful when using magic.
It might have a bonus like increased magical attack power.

What other reason would there be a wand class of weapons for?
Since there are wands, they should have benefits aside from physical attack power.
Maybe it has bonuses to decrease casting time? That wouldn't be helpful since I have incantation omission.

I hang the scimitar at my waist, just in case something happens and I need it.

Needle Wood Lv2

I attack the Needle Wood with fireball.
It might be my imagination, but the fireballs look a bit bigger so the wand is probably having some effect.

The fireball heads down the cave.
As it approaches the demon, he moves towards the wall and avoids it.

Crap.

So they can even avoid it.
I already knew I couldn't defeat it in one shot, so maybe it was a mistake to attack the moment I saw it.
It doesn't select it's own targets the way fire storm does, so I need to aim it well.

I try to fire a second fireball straight away, but it doesn't go well.
Even though I have incantation omission, it seems I can't fire them in rapid succession.

Finally it works as the Needle Wood approaches.
There seems to be a small cooldown time between using attack magic.
There's a small delay after it appears to, since it appears above my head.

The demon has closed in on me by the time I shot off the second fireball, and it swings it's branch at me.
I block it with the wand, and fall back a bit.

I attack again as I avoid it's swings.
It's on fire as it swings it's branches at me, and the sound of burning is quite horrible.
I block another attack from the left, and then I attack again.
There's a crackling sound as the demon burns, and then it collapses.

So I need four fireballs?
There isn't much difference between the power of fireball and fire storm.
Even if I don't use the wand it will probably be the same number of attacks.

I'm not sure if I got depressed a little?
The amount of MP that the fireball uses must be quite small compared to the fire storm.

Green Caterpillar Lv2

I watched the Green Caterpillar for a moment before using the fireball.
It tried to dodge, but the fireball ended up hitting it without problem.
Guessing from it's appearance, it is slow when trying to move sideways.
I attack again as it moves towards me.
As it approaches an orange magic circle appears underneath it.

The moment it fires it's string I use firewall.
The wall of fire blocks the space between me and the demon.
It's hit by the string from the caterpillar, and a light sound is hear as it burns it away.

I move around to the side and try to use a fireball, but it doesn't appear so I smack the demon in the head with the wand.

The caterpillar attacks me.
It charges me with it's body, and I narrowly avoid it.
It seems I can't use the fireball yet.
I smack it with the wand again, but I can't avoid it's next attack and take it head on.

Finally the fireball works.
The demon tries to attack me while it's burning, but I block it with the wand.

I fire the fourth fireball, and in the blast of flames the demon falls.

It seems the the green caterpillar needs four fireballs to be defeated as well, and I also hit it twice with the wand.
It feels like quite an intense battle if I don't defeat it in a single blow with Durandal.

Should I use Durandal after all?

No, today I should give priority to improving myself.
I still need to get enough money to buy Roxanne.
For that goal I need to improve myself to get to a lower floor of the dungeon a bit quicker.

If a battle with magic takes about a minute, and I fight 60 times a day, then my progress through the labyrinth will be an hour slower than normal.
One and a half hours slower if I fight 90 times.

Since I can kill everything in a single blow with Durandal it shouldn't be a problem for me to go to the next floor.
I might make a mistake if I go down too early though.

It's probably fine with Durandal.

Do not go… Do not go…
I'm feeling a little afraid.

I have a look at my character stats.

I'm still injured from the body attack.
I believe I can kill everything with four fireballs, but I'm not confident about four fire storms.
The lack of confidence probably comes the negative emotions caused by my lack of MP though.

I've got another bonus point.
That's amazing growth.
The two 10x experience stats are working great.

I select Durandal again, and look at MP recovery, it's next level is 3x MP recovery speed.
If the stat is similar to bonus Exp then it should increase a lot.

Will the MP recovery stat improve enough that it can become a substitute for Durandal?
If I cancel a forced job I can select 3x now.

Do I need to do that?
It's safer if I just use Durandal.
I'll keep working with 2x MP recovery speed for a bit longer.

I go hunting demons to recover some MP.
There's two of them.
Why do groups only appear at times like this?

I cancel the extra job and remove Durandal again.

Thinking about it, I've got the option to pay the explorer at the entrance to take me down to a lower level.
Lower levels shouldn't be any more of a problem.
It might be possible to recover the hour I lost down there.
Though, I still want to fight with magic a bit more.

Green Caterpillar Lv2

I shoot a fireball at the Green Caterpillar.

The fire wall from earlier was a bit of a hint about magic timing.
The fireball is quite strong, but I can't fire the second shot yet.
You can probably only use one spell at a time, so while you can still see your last spell you can't use the next one yet.

I fire the second one, and let it hit before firing the third one.
An orange magic formation appears under the demon.

I wait with my timing, and then use the fire wall.
There's a small sound as it eats the thread.

I try to test if I can use a different magic at the same time.

While the fire wall is still burning it seems I can't use anything.
Not just the fireball, but the waterball, breezeball and sandball also didn't work.

While the demon is burning, I confront it with the wand.
I dodge it's body attack while I smack it with the wand.
The wall of fire disappears and I fire of the third fireball, and after that the fourth.
The Green Caterpillar is defeated.

The cave in the labyrinth is about three meters wide.
The fire wall is about one & a half meters wide.
Unless I can increase the width of it, I won't be able to block off the cave.
If I'm attacked from both sides at once I won't be able to use it to protect my back.

Also, there's about a ten second duration on the fire wall.
Wall magic seems to be quite difficult to use effectively.

Needle Wood Lv2

The demon waddles in the cave ahead.
I let it approach a little, and then launch a fire ball.
I fire the second shot the moment the first is gone.
It gets into range of me before I fire the third shot.
As I dodge the branch, I use the third fireball.

So I'll be attacked before I can shoot four times, Isn't there a way to shoot faster?
I block it's branch and shoot the fourth fireball.
The fire blazes up and the demon collapses.

I'm feeling a bit depressed, but another one should be fine?

Green Caterpillar Lv2

I launch a fireball at the Green Caterpillar.
The second one is launched as the first goes out. One continuously after the other.
The Green Caterpillar has slow movements so I should be able to attack again from a distance.
The Green Caterpillar is closing the distance, but I use the third shot and it collapses.
Does each one have different stats? Or did this one fall after three fireballs because I went up a level?

I'm glad the I might have improved, but I'm getting depressed and can't really think about it.

2x MP recovery speed isn't a substitute for Durandal.
I open my character stats, and select Durandal.
Also, I have another bonus point.

I take a moment to think while looking at my stats.

Maybe there is another risk to using magic.
What if I'm seen using it by people?

Second job and job settings are bonus skills.
Most people in this world probably can't have the explorer job and wizard job at the same time.
Can a wizard learn space magic?

I use warp and dungeon walk, and I make use of magic.
If someone watches me they might notice I'm not chanting incantations.
The apprentice knight that I saw on the first floor has seen my intelligence card as well, so I should be cautious.

Should I use Durandal instead of magic to fight?
I should be safe if I use Durandal.

No, I'm still feeling bad.
Only using Durandal comes to my mind.

I hunt a demon and recover some MP.

How many people have I met on the second floor?
It feels like there isn't anyone here.
Is it because the Labyrinth has just been discovered? Is it because the demons here aren't worthwhile? Maybe the second floor just isn't liked?
Maybe Green Caterpillars are just thought to be troublesome?

Well, the chances of running into anyone here seem low.
If they just see me conjuring then they'll think I'm a wizard.
The apprentice knight seemed quite exhausted on the first floor so he probably won't come to the second floor either.

I need to take some risks.
Low risk, low return. High risk, high return. That's a rule of any world.
I need to keep practicing my magic.
The dungeon walk & item box I can use after confirming there is nobody nearby.

I remove Durandal, and stop my fourth job. I select 3x MP recovery.
My current jobs are Explorer, Hero & Wizard.

Kaga Michio. 17 years old. Explorer Lv12, Hero Lv8, Wizard Lv5.
Equipment: Sandals, Wand, leather armor.

My levels have gone up quite a bit.
I got the Wizard job this morning and it's already Lv5

Current bonus point use:
63 points for 20x less experience required.
31 points for 10x experience gained.
7 points for 3x MP recovery speed.
3 points for incantation omission.
3 points for Judgement, job settings & character reset.
110 points in total.

Chapter 22 - Yellow Signal

I started the full scale exploration of the second floor.
Regenerating my MP with Durandal regularly, I took down the monsters primarily with spells.

Conveniently Durandal was sheathed when a two man party of a needle wood and a green caterpillar appeared.

I cast firestorm the instant I spotted them.

Firestorm is a certain hit spell. There's no need to pull in the monsters.

I had prepared the second shot before the fire had fully extinguished.

And followed on with a third shot.The green caterpillar was defeated by the third shot.

Only the needle wood is left.

Receiving the swung branch, I incinerated it with a fireball.Seems like there isn't much difference in incinerating ability between firestorm and fireball for individual opponents.

Green caterpillar was downed in three hits but needle wood needed four.

Fire storm's MP consumption doesn't seem to vary dramatically with the amount of monsters either.
If a lot of monsters are defeated with 4 hits of wide area attack magic, then it's pretty efficient.
Is there no place around here like the first floors monster spawning small room?

Does the small room not appear until all conditions are fulfilled?
The trap by which demons spawn in large quantities seems to be rare.

While checking the ends of hallways for the small room. and drawing

and retrieving Durandal (for MP Regen), I hunted monsters.

After exiting the labyrinth in between, I reentered after noon.

The green caterpillar was hit with a three hit combo of Water, Breeze and Sand Balls.
It doesn't seem to have a particular elemental weakness.

A four hit combo of breeze and sand balls took down the needle wood too.
Fire Magic doesn't seem to be their weak point either.
Since Water ball did not inflict any apparent damage (on the monster) earlier, I stopped using it.

Though I want to check it out, there are no apparent opportunities.

If you try to fire off four consecutive magics, you are inevitably exposed to enemy attacks in between.
Just in case I panic if it's not defeated even after a four hit combo, it would be preferable to have Durandal equipped.
But, since I have to draw Durandal when MP is low, I do not want to cast water ball as much as four to five times.

If two monsters appear while Durandal is equipped, recovering MP while taking one down and then taking down the other with magic is a plausible strategy, but.
But well, they're not something that appear so conveniently.

Needle wood Lv.2
Needle wood Lv.2

It finally appeared around the time I was thinking of wrapping up today's exploration.
I fired a water ball at the needle wood on my left.
I got two more shots in on the needle wood which had stumbled by a half step.

Inside the dim labyrinth. It's pretty hard to judge where to fire the next water ball unlike the fire spells which light up the surroundings.

Incidentally, all my delusions of being able to avoid detection when attacking from a distance were instantly dispelled.

The green caterpillars seem to instinctively know how to avoid breeze wall.

I stepped forward while readying Durandal. I cut down the right needle wood.
I avoided the branch swung by the left monster by a hair's breadth.
I summoned three water balls.
The monster didn't go down.
Thanks to the level up, it seems I can take down needle woods with a three hit fireball combo.
Since it can also be due to the effectiveness of the wand, let's try firing a fourth shot.
The branch was energetically swung. Failing to counter, I took the hit head-on.
Seems like they are resistant to water magic after all.
In an instant, I mowed it down with Durandal.
The monster was cut in half from top to bottom.

Leaf.
The needle wood disappeared into smoke. Luckily, it also dropped a leaf.
The green caterpillar isn't dropping anything besides thread anymore.
Looks like there are monsters who do not drop rare items. Or maybe the drop rate is different?

Since I got a rare item, I decided to call it a day.
I cast warp setting the adventurer guild's wall as the target. I could transfer to some other place too, but I don't know if that would be good.
It would be preferable to not go to some shady place.

Though people also utilize the Vale Restaurant's lobby, I'd prefer not to.
Transferring to building's is the utility of the adventurer's field walk. I'll be regarded suspiciously if I use field walk despite not being an adventurer.
While there's the option of passing myself off as an adventurer, one look at the intelligence card will expose the lie.

I teleported to the inside of the adventurer's guild.
A place without tumult and having a calm atmosphere is comforting.
Transferring in an instant from a lonely battlefield into this atmosphere further enhances it's value.
"Is there anyone who wants to go to the capital?"
A person who teleported through the wall like me was recruiting customers when I exited the guild.

The capital, is it?
Should I give it a go?
The recruiter is quite the beauty too.

"How much will it cost?"
I tried asking after activating thirty percent discount.
She's an adventurer in her fourties.
However, she's an elf and to top it off, a female. (♀=female right?)
Appearance wise she looks around twenty years of age.
Let's ignore the age.

"The prevailing rate is two silver coins. A one way trip will cost you a non-bargainable amount of 1 silver coin."
"I see."
The 30% discount probably didn't work.
Taking out a pouch from my rucksack, I handed over a silver coin.

"If it's something to the extent of that rucksack it should be fine.(to transfer, I presume.) Responding to the faith of companions, I have read the honesty of their hearts, Party Formation"

The elven adventurer chanted the party formation spell.
The party formation prompt materialized in my head.
The prompt disappeared on selecting yes.

So that's how it is. This is how you form a party.

The party at the labyrinths entrance was formed in the same way.
Only the members of your own party can be transferred with teleport magic.

From her earlier words about a rucksack being fine, it seems not everything can be transported.

Is the rucksack treated as baggage?
Will the contents of my item box be fine?

Without giving me any time to placate my worries, the elf adventurer casts field walk.
The adventurer and the guild's wall in front of me faded to black.

This isn't the time to be perplexed.
Now that I think about it, the item box was fine when casting dungeon walk and warp. Field walk should be the same.
I follow along so as not to be late.

A large room expanded on the other side of the wall.
Since the basic structure is the same, this is probably the Capital's adventurer guild. It's dimensions were three times larger than it's counterpart in Vale.
The counter also had up to 10 lines queued up.

Accompanying the invocation of the party formation spell, the disband party option materialized.
Another adventurer who came along with us nodded and left.
He formed a party with five other people, cast field walk and exited through the wall.

That must've been the his first time in Vale.
Thus, he came along with the Elven adventurer to Vale. Upon returning, he took along his party to Vale.

"Come to think of it, the other day, a magician was using field walk. How is that possible? "
Since it's a rare opportunity, might as well ask the elven female.

"Who knows. I've never heard of such a thing. Might you not have made a mistake?"
"Is that so? That might just be it."
"Then, I'll take my leave."
The elf woman also departed.
As expected a magician able to use warp or dungeon walk is unheard of.
Moreover, the reply had a meh feeling to it. People probably don't have any particular interest in details of skills or jobs of other people.

If I were good-looking, would she have had sex with me?
Damn it. Is that the way it is?

I exited the adventurer's guild for a while.

The capital was crowded with buildings.
The color of the building's brick's here was brown too.
Not being modern buildings enhances their oppressive feeling.

Kinda feels like getting lost in ancient Rome or Baghdad in it's golden days.
Should be obvious that I've never seen them. But the setting should be somewhat like this.

The road in front of me, stretches far and wide straight out in the distance.
A history book I read in my free time described the construction of roads in the Middle Ages to be complicated so as to make them impervious to enemy attack.
The path to the capital is straight on the other hand. Is it peaceful to this extent?

The day is still young.
There seems to be a time difference between here and Vale.

Since I didn't exactly come here for sightseeing, I swiftly returned to the adventurers guild.
There was a board to my left side on which posters were displayed.

I approached the board, but as expected, I couldn't read it.
When I started looking around restlessly, a beautiful onee-san smilingly approached me.

"Should I read it for you?"
As expected of the capital's guild.
The translators are of a different level entirely. They're elegant and refined.
She's a 21 year old villager. Though she isn't as beautiful as Roxanne and is simply wearing loose deep blue clothes, she has a dazzling atmosphere around her.

"Yes."

“It’s 10 Nars for six minutes.”
The price seems to the same as at Vale’s explorer’s guild.
Opening the rucksack, I handed over 10 copper coins to the woman.
When our finger tips touched during the exchange, I felt my heart skip a beat. Can’t be helped, I’m a man after all.

“Please proceed.”
“Then, you have until till this hourglass runs out.”
The hourglasses working seems identical.
A perfectly legal chance to ogle her butt GET!

Be that as it may, it’s not like I can ogle her forever.
Dammit. Since I’m being charged for this time.

“Is there a place which purchases branches?”
“Um , did you just become an adventurer? ”
That was probably a noob question just now.
Though I’m not really an adventurer.

“Why do you ask? ”
“Requests specify specific items. They’re either strong monster or rare item drops. The guild has tons of branches stocked. That being the case, there’s no need to put out a request for it”
When I countered with a question of my own, she kindly explained it to me.
So that’s how it is.
There’s no way anyone will put out a request to purchase branches.
To search for it regardless would be the epitome of noobness.

“Then thread is also a no go?”
“Yep.”
“No places willing to purchase antidotes either? ”
Once over the border one may do anything (implying he can be as shameless in his questioning as he wants since nobody knows him anyways.)
Since I’ve been found out to be a newbie anyways, might as well ask about everything.

“Since you can buy them at guilds anyways.”
“Can you sell stuff like wands at guilds too? ”
“Items droppped by monsters, be they equipment or rotting

ingredients, cannot be sold at the guild. Equipment can be sold to arms merchants while you can sell the ingredients to restaurants or use them for food yourself or sell them on the festival day. The ingredients won't rot if you place the ingredients in the item box anyways so."
They won't rot when inside the item box?
This is good info.

"What about monster subjugation requests? "
"Monster subjugation is carried out by the lord's knight and warrior squadron. Though there are instances of adventurer's are recruited in the Knight's squadron. Should I read out the details for you?"
If it's about the income earned by monster subjugation, the slave trader should have told me all there is to know.
It seems they don't give much to people of doubtful origin.

"Nope. Are there any one-off jobs? "
"There's a job to guide people around with field walk"
That's also impossible since I'm unfamiliar to towns other than the capital and Vale..
In the first place, my ability isn't field walk, it's warp. There's also the question of how long I can keep fooling them (into thinking it's field walk).

Since there was no other option, I had her teach me the items for which requests were put out.
Clear tortoise shell, reverse scales, shielding cement and silver thread.
Shark fins and sirloins are the rare ingredients. There are items like that too?

"Your time is up. Do you want to continue?"
"Nope. This is good enough. Thank you"
Rather than an extension, I want the after.(he's prob referring to sex)

So far as selling of your items is concerned, I think Krater's explorer's guild put up a wide variety of requests. "Krater's explorer's guild, is it. I understand"
Not really.
More like, this is the first time I'm hearing that name.

I bid farewell to the onee-san who went out of her way to teach me.
After that I made a few transactions at the counter.

“How much is your cheapest fatigue recovery potion?”
Since this is a rare chance, I tried asking the onee-san manning the counter.

“Strengthening pill, right? It’s sixty Nars. ”
“What about the cheapest potion?”
“The nourishment pill. That too, is for 60 Nars.
Pretty expensive.
If I carelessly use them instead of Durandal(‘s recovery ability), my expenses will go into the red pretty quick.
In the end, I returned to Vale’s adventurers guild without purchasing anything.

Making sure of the absence of people in my surroundings, I sleepily muttered “Field Walk”.
Though I had heard the chant for Field walk before, I wasn’t able to memorize it.
And then I cast warp silently. I visualized Vale’s adventurer guilds wall.

I entered the black wall which had materialized.
Thus from an outsiders perspective, I seem to be using field walk to teleport myself.

After an instant of darkness, I came out into Vale’s adventurer’s guild.
It’s evening over here.
Seems like the capital is to the west of Vale.

Incidentally, the threads price was 10 Nars.
Even though the green caterpillar took the trouble to spit out all that thread, it didn’t raise as much money as the needlewood’s drops Wasn’t a rare item either.
Certainly, it’s not a great combination of monsters.

Today’s earnings amount to 1144 Nars.
It doesn’t seem to be a miscalculation. It’s only one-fourth of yesterday’s earnings.

But I didn't craft medicine today and four leaf's are in my item box so.
With four leaves, I can make around 40 antidote pills. That'll earn me around 1000 Nars so the actual deficit is half that of yesterday.

My spending the day learning how to use magic is to blame.
Exploring also took a lot more time since I wasn't utilizing Durandal.

I returned to Vale's restaurant.

"For three days, please."
I tell the man as I'm taking out my purse.
The amount I had paid on the first day was enough for lodging till this morning.

"Got it."
"Isn't there a money changer somewhere? Copper coins have been piling up."
"There is no such place. It's not like you have particularly have to pay in silver. Paying with 100 copper coins is perfectly acceptable"
Apparently there are no money changers.
If there was a moneylender, with 30% discount I'd be able to buy a gold coin for 7000 Nars and selling the same with 30% sales boost would yield 13000 Nars. I'd make a killing.

If you take that into consideration, exchanging 1 gold for a hundred silver would become a pretty lucrative business.
But since the changer would charge a commission of the total, earning money by this means is impractical.

I placed five silver coins and 190 copper coins on the counter.
With this, the no of copper coins has been considerably reduced.

"Also, please prepare a hot bath after dinner."

"Let's see. Hotel charges with dinner included and hot water for three days, 686 Nars'll be good enough. This is a special service just for you."
For some reason, he returned six copper coins to me.
Since the hot water bath was twenty Nars, this means the thirty percent discount is effective?

I don’t get the working of this thing.

“Can I inspect my intelligence card?”
“You can do it once every ten days. Since you checked it two days ago, you’ll have to wait a while.”
“I already ordered food right?”
“Yep. You did.”
I utilize dinner time to study the numbers of this world’s language.
I learned 1 yesterday.
What should I choose today.

“Welcome. Since fresh sirloin arrived today, I’d recommend that.”
Upon entering the restaurant, a woman from the management recommended one of the four things on the menu.
Seems to be the same sirloins which I heard about in the capital.
It’s a bit on the small side for a meal of one, but a steak is also included. So this is a sirloin.

“……then, for one person.” “Thank you for your patronage.”
Seeing it has made me want to eat it.
I’ve lost.

“The third, please.”

Today I’ll learn number 3.

“Certainly. Would herbal tea suffice as a drink?”
All right. It’s the correct answer.
With this I’ve identified the numbers 1 and 3 of the key used to unlock my room. -review

Since there are four dinner menus,the remaining two are 2 and 4.
How can I confirm it?
I’ll work out a strategy while eating dinner.

Absentmindedly thinking about it is escapism.
I know that.
As a matter of fact, there is a bigger problem.
Considering that is actually more important.

Today’s total proceeds were 3302 Nars. That includes the price of yesterday’s share of leaves.

Upon considering today's share of leaves was the same as yesterday. Since I was only wandering aimlessly around the second floor, it cant be helped that the result is not much different from yesterday.
Like it or not, I'm still far from earning a gold coin.

Out of 10 days, three have already passed.
Will I be able to raise the money by the due date?

To be honest, at this pace, it's gonna be pretty tough.

The labyrinth doesn't seem to have treasure chests and the like either.
Will there be any if I go to the lower floors? Or maybe they're hidden so I don't notice them. Or is it that they're not there in the first place? I considered many possibilities.

In the first place, is a bonanza really possible in a labyrinth?
Even if possible, it'll be worthless if not within 10 days.
It'll be a race with time from here onwards.

Kaga Michio: Male, 17 years old

Explorer Lv.21, Hero Lv.17, Wizard Lv.19

Equipment: Scimitar, Hide Armour, Sandal Boots.

My level rising is the sole saving grace.
I heaved a sigh while looking at my arm.

Chapter 23 - Red Light

The next labyrinth exploration will start in a small room in the middle of the second level where many monsters wouldn't appear.

It's doubtful whether I'd be able to earn the money for Roxanne by locking myself into the dungeon, but since it's late at night there isn't anything else to do.
I exited the hotel and immediately warped to the labyrinth using the wall next to the entrance way.
Finally, I made good progress on the exploration of the second level.
As soon as I entered the labyrinth, I came across a small room that should be next to the boss room.
Perhaps because it's late at night, there aren't any people waiting for their turn.

When fighting the boss, I think I should use Durandal.
I took out Durandal, replaced "Mp recovery rate x5" with a fifth job, and approached the room in the back.
My equipped jobs are Warrior and Swordsman.
If I only equipped three jobs, I could equip "10x decease in required exp tnl", but I gave up on it.
Because it's a boss battle, it's better to focus on safety than the experience value.
Magic or Rush might be useful for something.

The back door immediately opened.
I braced myself and entered the neighboring room.
Smoke gathered and a demon appeared.
White Caterpillar Lv 2
As the name suggests, it's a white species of green caterpillar. Just one size larger.
The first floor's Udo Wood was the same. I wonder if variants of the monsters that appear on the level become the boss?
While I was thinking, an orange magic formation appeared underneath the caterpillar's chest.
Crap. It's going to spit out thread.

Since it’s a different type of demon from the Green Caterpillar, it might have a different special attack, but it’s likely going to spit something out of its mouth since it’s a similar caterpillar.
While watching the demon’s mouth, I prepared my firewall.

White Caterpillar has used String Shot It’s still just string.
Immediately after the caterpillar spit out its string, I created a wall of fire in front.
The string that was supposed to cover me was burned in the fire wall.
The sound of burning string echoed faintly.
Magic was already useful.
If I switched out the third job, Wizard, for Warrior, what would have happened?

I moved to the side and attacked using Durandal.
Even with pursuing with Rush, another magic formation appeared.
I take a step back and prepare my fire wall while watching the demon’s movements.
Stupid. How many times is it going to repeat the same actions?

Though, I am just one person.
Because it’s a boss battle, it’ll probably become a drawn out battle.
The enemy’s aim is to spit out thread and seal my movements, which is a good strategy.
Conversely, it would be terrible for me if I got constricted.
I’d likely be bashed, if I was unable to move satisfactorily.
I’ll defeat it before that happens.
I moved to the side and swung Durandal.
With my sword overhead, I used Rush and slashed at the monster.
Durandal struck against the monster’s head.

It hasn’t died, yet?
As expected, is it because the boss is lv 2?

It pulls back at once, and a magic formation can be observed at its feet.
However, the White Caterpillar tries to ram me instead of shooting its string.
I hurriedly tried to avoid it, but my right elbow got hit.

Enduring the pain, I swung Durandal through the monster's flank.
Finally, my sword tears through the monster. The White Caterpillar lay defeated.

Silk Thread
The demon disappears into smoke and only a shiny thread remains.
This thread might just be a luxury item.

The White Caterpillar seemed to be quite intelligent.
It first carried out a strategy of trying to seal my movement and switched to direct attacks when it lost room.
Is it intelligent?
However, it's likely to be just a simple program.
It's difficult to understand with Durandal, but the Green Caterpillar might have a similar behavioral pattern.
Can you even call that intelligence?
Also, the special attack, which I nullified with the firewall, was done twice.
Or after using it twice, it realized it was useless and switched to physical attacks?

I looked around the room.
There is nothing in particular.
The party that passed through before me managed to avoid being destroyed.
I went into the next room and moved to the third floor.
The small room that is the entrance to the third floor is almost the same as on the first and second floors.
There is a black wall behind and the path extends in three directions.
The second floor's boss room had a shortcut back to the entrance, after all.
The first floor was on the right and the second was in front.
Then, the third floor should be on the left.
With Durandal in hand, decided on three jobs and entered the left passageway.

Needle Wood Lv 3
The first monster that appeared was a Needle Wood.
Is the third floor level 3?
I rush over and throw out Durandal.

With Durandal, even a Lv 3 only takes a hit.
Assuming the level 3 monsters are stronger, because I've been raising my own level this much isn't a problem.

Kobold Lv 3
Next, a kobold appeared and seems to be the monster of the floor.
It's a dark blue midget. It has big eyes, pointed ears, and fangs sprouting up. Its face is huge. It's two heads tall and its face is about half its body.
It has a knife in its right hand. Isn't that a weapon?
I'm afraid of the knife.
Although the damage from the monsters bash attacks disappeared from Durandal's HP Absorption, would cuts disappear as well?
It might be alright to be cut, but what about how I'm cut?
Losing an arm would be terrible, but a finger might be alright.
Or, if my organs were gouged out?
If a nerve is cut?
Is the lost blood replenished by the HP absorption?
These various questions made me anxious.
Of course, I don't want to try and see what happens.

The victory goes to the one who makes the first move against an enemy with a weapon.
I prepared Fireball.
A ball of fire appeared overhead.

Slow.

The movements of the kobold were sluggish.
It wasn't even able to take three steps till the ball of fire closed the distance.
The confused monster was caught in the fireball.
The kobold is wrapped in flames and collapsed.

Weak!
The kobold went under with a single Fire Ball
So weak. Kobolds are weak.
I thought one hit of Fireball wouldn't be enough.
In comparison, the Green Caterpillar Lv 2 took two hits and the Needle Wood Lv 2 took three.

Kobold Salt
When the kobold dissolved into smoke, it left behind a white fang.
White fang sounds nice, but isn't it just ordinary salt like the name suggests?
Since my level rose, I can afford to stick it into the item box.
I took out the item box while making sure no one was around.
Now, there are 33 gold coins and 21 silver coins put in the item box.
Putting it in my item box should be safer than the rucksack on my back.
Because it's troublesome to cast the spell in front of people, I might not be able to use the silver coins.
I want to think there isn't magic to steal the contents of my item box.

Before dealing with the enemies of the third floor, I thought I would need Durandal, but if these weak kobolds are the opponent, it won't be necessary.
I put Durandal away.
I kept the third job and equipped 5x Mp recovery speed.

Green Caterpillar Lv 3
Kobold Lv 3
Next ones to come out were companions. That's convenient.
The same time I discovered them I cast Fire Storm. Sparks attacked the two monsters.
The kobold fell with that alone.
I threw a Fireball at the remaining Green Caterpillar.
The monster endured the inferno.
The level two caterpillar died with two shots, but that doesn't seem to be enough for a level 3.
As expected, it seems to get stronger from Lv 2 to 3.
I sent a third one to the approaching caterpillar.
If the first blow that attracted it wasn't Firestorm, I could have fired three shots with room to spare.
The Green Caterpillar falls. Leaving behind thread, it disappeared into smoke.

Kobolds are weak.
They're weaker than the caterpillars on the second floor.
It might be that I shoot strong magic, but even the knights and hotel

guy, treated it as a disappointing monster.
Isn't it a monster for beginners that should normally appear on the first floor?
Although I don't know whether there is a reason it appeared on the lower floors, since it's so weak.
Because there isn't a reason for them to appear, there might be no reason.
The reality might be that.

And speaking of my limited experience, I think it's fine for kobolds to be on the third floor.
Even though kobolds have big blue face, it leaves a bad taste since they're similar to humans.
If you had a demon-like human in your party from the beginning, you might have lost your composure.
Needle Woods are clearly plants and Green Caterpillars are caterpillars.
Gradually you become accustomed to the difference, would they then be unable to cope with the kobolds?
Also, kobolds are holding knives.
When facing an enemy holding a knife, after all it will create a sense of fear.
Only after being gradually accustomed to the labyrinth, monsters, and leveling up, was I able to shake off that fear.
If kobolds were the first floor monsters, I don't know what would happen.
When the time came, I might have been fine.

Kobold Lv 3
It's also possible that the fire element is its weakness. Next, I tried using water magic to see.
But it only took a single hit with Water Ball as well.
Since they're so weak, the experience gain will be less as well.
There's a problem of efficiency.

Jackknife – One-handed Sword
When the kobold fell, it dropped the knife it was holding this time.
It seems to be a folding knife.
I feel frightened when an enemy holds it, but it is a small knife.

I put away the folded blade.

While fighting, kobolds would often drop the jackknife.
Needle woods' probability to drop the leaf is about a tenth and the jackknife's probability of dropping is a third.
It seems the probability of the item dropped depends upon the monster. Green Caterpillars only leave behind thread.

I don't know how much the jackknife will sell for.
It shouldn't be too high.
It's just a common knife, as well as a drop from a kobold.
If drop item from a weak monster was worth a lot, it wouldn't be a disappointing monster.

It turned out as I thought when I went to the adventurers' guild.
After returning to the inn and eating breakfast, I went towards the adventurers' guild.

"Do you buy kobold salt?"
I tried to ask the older woman at the counter.

However, if you look at the items I come here to sell, the progress of my labyrinth exploration is leaked to the guild.
At present, I'm not particularly troubled by it.

"Yes, I can do it. Out of the items purchased by the guild, it has the lowest sale price."
"Specifically?"
"Four nars for one."
Cheap.
Upon seeing the depressed me, the woman smiled.
That smile's priceless.

"Yeah."
Since, there isn't any use for it, all of the kobold salt was put on the tray.
If I sold it in units of five, I could gain a profit of 1 nar with the 30% discount, but still it's only a nar.
I don't have enough energy to do that.

"The guild also purchases jackknives."

The guild woman told me.
Is my situation being leaked?
There might be many adventurers, who bring kobold salt and jackknives together.
“I’ve heard it’s worthless equipment.”
“Among equipment, I’m only allowed to handle jackknives. Because there are so many, they are melted down and used as an ingredient in copper coins.”
Jack Knifes are usually not brown but a silver color. I wonder if it’s made out of copper?

“By the way, the price is?”
“Ten nars for one.”
Cheap!
Well, they’re small, but even 100 or 200 copper coins could be made from a single jackknife.
Is the price really like that?

“I understand. 800 *mumbles* Item Box Open”
So the woman wouldn’t hear me, I pretended to turn to the side and cast the spell in a low voice.
Rather than the 800 coins, I’d like easy ways to make money.
I took out the jackknives and place them on the tray.
“Then, please wait a moment.”
After a little bit of time, the woman returned with 808 nars.
Is it really just 800?

As expected of their weakness, kobolds won’t make me money.
Its three characteristics are being slow, weak, and cheap.
At the same time, a red light was lit on my ability to prepare the money to buy Roxanne.
I judge that it’s impossible to acquire the funds for Roxanne from the dungeon.
It’s obvious the main monster of third floor, kobolds, won’t make money.
If you should say I should advance to the lower floor, it isn’t that promising.
Though half of the third floor is kobolds, Needle Woods and Green Caterpillars show up also.

If the first floor's Needle Wood appeared on the third floor, the third floor's kobold should appear on the fourth and fifth floors.
Even if I cleared a floor every two days, I'd only advance to the sixth floor by the deadline.
And kobolds are certainly there to stand in my way.
It's hopeless to make easy money in the labyrinth.

There is the option of paying an explorer to take me deeper into the labyrinth.
However, even if I went to a lower floor, there isn't any guarantee I'll be able to earn enough money to buy Roxanne.
First, the expectation that you'll earn more money the deeper the floor level collapsed with the appearance of the kobold.
Second, when I think about the danger I can't just take a leap of faith.
Because the Green Caterpillar became stronger from level two to three, it's pretty much certain the monsters will get stronger the deeper I go.
I may lose my advantage in the fourth or fifth floors.
Third, as of three days ago the exploration only covered up to the fourth floor, so even if I advance, I would only be able to go that deep.
I better think of methods outside the labyrinth to make money.
I should concentrate my efforts on that.

I thought about a method using the leaf, but it's probably impossible.
Antidotes sell for 25 nars and ten would be 325 nars with the 30% increase in sale price.
The price of the leaf at the guild is 80 nars and the woman told me the market price is double the amount, so I can buy it for 160 nars.
Since 10 antidotes are generated from one leaf, it becomes a profit of 165 nars.
If more than a hundred are collected in a day, it's easily possible to earn no less than a gold coin.

But from what I heard from the guild woman, it seems you can't buy the leaves at the guild.
Not only from the adventurers and explorers guild, it isn't possible to even put up a purchase request.

It seems they made a contract with the pharmacists' guild to send them medical ingredients.
And then, the pharmacist guild will distribute to its members.

So, it's worthless.
Even if I join some guild, I won't be distributed 100 items in one day.
If the herbalists were distributed 100 per day, every one of them would be rich.
Well even if I become a herbalist guild member and put out a purchase request, I lose control over the situation.
By creating barriers to enter, newcomers won't be able to profit.
The world is well-made.

It seems impossible to make money using the leaf.
If it's not possible to earn money using the labyrinth or leaf, what should be done?
The choice was there from the beginning.
It was bounty hunting.

In the morning, I decided to walk through Vale instead of entering the labyrinth.
I checked the job of everyone I saw.
Using judgment makes this so easy.
Because, I can tell who's a thief by looking at them.

Honestly, I'm not interested in bounty hunting.
I don't want to do it, but I have no doubt the judgment skill is a huge benefit in this business.

From those leaving the town, there weren't any thieves.
They don't seem to be walking downtown in the morning.
But what should I do if I find a thief?
I have some resistance to killing a person.
I've gotten accustomed to killing demon, but they only disappear into smoke and this is different.
Of course, I have to do it if I want the reward money.

I'll move to the slums in the north and look there.
The south and central parts of the city are lined with large, clean buildings, but the farther north you go, the buildings become worn down.

It smells of poverty.
I don't see any difference from the slums and here.

No……
I found out by taking one step inside.
It's clearly different.
From here on, it's the slums.

The smell is different.
The people are different.
The air is different.
The building got even dirtier and an oppressive air hung around the area.
There are even homeless people.
A child is standing in the street.
It isn't doing anything, looking at any place, just standing there blankly.
Rather than playing in the street, they're more like a kind of street child.

This place is horrible.
I may just think so because it's my first time, but my sixth sense is sounding the alarm bells.
This atmosphere is perilous.
It is absolutely dangerous.
An older guy, squatting alone in a convenience store parking lot, smoking, is adorable compared to here.
I turn right around and leave the slums.
I quickly took refuge in a place I considered safe.

I turn back a little and go around to the east side.
There seems to be a brothel in the east.
Although it's a brothel in the slums, it wouldn't be strange for a guy to exit.

On the way there, there was a crowd.
A lot of people were assembled on the street.
What's going on?
I joined the group as well while using judgment.
Why do I want to line up whenever I see a line?

People are lined up along the road.
There was a vacant lot across the road and someone lay fallen.

Leather Chest Armor
When I use judgment, instead of their name and job, it was their equipment.
…….In other words, they seem to be dead.
I can't appraise a dead body.

"That's a thief, right?
"Why do you think that?"
Within the left crown, an older adventurer and merchant were having a talk in the Brahim language.
"The left hand was cut off. It hasn't come out after 30 minutes."
I don't feel like seeing it, but it appears the fallen person has no left hand.
Was the intelligence card the mark?
Intelligence cards are naturally expunged thirty minutes after death.
I also thought it could be used to hide the victim's identity, but that probably goes without saying.

"Please let me through."
I think someone said. An order of knights arrived there.
A beautiful knight and an apprentice were there.
It seems the knights are tasked with maintaining public security.
"Is it a thief? You, take the corpse to the mortuary."
"Yes!"
The beautiful knight ordered after taking one glance at the corpse.
Even though it's a murder case, is that all you're going to do?
That's way too careless.
"It's a thief. Everyone dismissed."

The beautiful knight told the onlookers while raising and shaking her left hand.
The onlookers scattered, but a large amount returned.
Do they know the drill?
When the pretty knight left, the hustle and bustle returned to the noisy onlookers.
"Is it a bounty hunter?"
"I wonder. Oh, couldn't it be a falling out?"

The merchant and older adventurer resumed their conversation.

Even if a thief takes an intelligence card it can't be converted into money, and you need a story if you ask someone else.
If it's the homeless people in the slums, they would be glad to work with you.

"The thieves that were kicked out of town seem to have come back for revenge."
While listening to the conversation of the merchants, I heard someone speaking in the back.

Chapter 24 - The Search for Thieves

I'm sorry about the two day delay. I had some stuff I needed to do, so here you go.

The Search for Thieves

The thieves that were kicked out of town seem to have come back for revenge.

It was information I just happened to overhear, but I couldn't throw it away.

It seems the thieves, who attacked the village and were killed by me, were originally based in the slums of this town.

Would those thieves that were evicted from town be their companions?
If that's so, who is the other party they're getting revenge on?

I felt a chill.

Ok think calmly, the chances of me being their revenge target is small.

First, if this was the town they were expelled from, they would want revenge on the town.

Second, they had the tables turned on them because they attacked the village, so it would be unjustified resentment.

Third, it's hard to identify my face, since this world likely doesn't have photographs.

Although, it doesn't give me peace of mind.

Even if it's to get revenge for being driven out of town, I think it would be difficult if the knights were the other party.

Even if it’s unjustified resentment, there’s no reason to stop if the other side doesn’t think so.

And if you get the information from the knight or the villagers, it’s possible to arrive at me.

No matter what the thief’s objectives are, I can’t deny the possibility of being targeted.

Until the thieves that were kicked out of town are killed, I can’t sleep without worries.(TLN: the original Japanese is 枕を高くしては寝られない which roughly translates to “can’t sleep with a higher pillow” which refers to a saying that if you are expecting an attack to sleep with a shorter pillow so you can hear it coming)

Without any response from me, I hunted the thieves and was forced to receive the reward money.

That day I searched the town until the evening.

I didn’t go into the slums.

I couldn’t find any thieves, but I grasped the rough features of the town.

Because I have warp, it’s important to know the terrain of the town.

I’ve found the reason the slums are in the north.

Two rivers flow through the town of Vale.
Both flow from the south and exit through the north.

There was also a well in the back of the inn and such around, so I’m not sure to what extent it’s used for drinking water.
However, sewage is probably discharged into the river.

The water that flows into the city from the south is clean and becomes cloudier as it heads downstream.

When it arrives at the slums, it stinks.

No one wants to live is such a place.

In turn, the rich and powerful build their houses in the south.

The remaining north side in turn becomes slums.

I haven't seen any thieves, is it because I'm being too careful?

I don't think humans that can use judgment often appear, but if you were in this town since the olden days, it might be known.

Or perhaps thieves are only active at night.

I may not be able to meet them unless I enter the deepest parts of the slums.

There's the possibility they're outside of town, too.

While thinking of various things, I arrived at the labyrinth.

"How far can you take me?"

I equip my discount and ask the explorer at the labyrinth's entrance.

"Seven floors."
"Can you take me to the fourth floor."
"Ok."

There isn't any money in the third floor.

I should get him to take me to the lower floors.

Kobolds die in a single shot of magic, also they die with a single blow from durandal.

The entrance explorer disappears at midnight.

I should get him to take me along tonight.

"…….How much?"

I asked because the other side wasn't saying anything.

"Pay the level of floor you want to go to in silver coins."
"Understood."

It's an easy to understand pricing plan.

It might have been common sense.

I took four silver coins from the rucksack.

I can’t cheat the item box spell in front of the professional.

The operation time might be weird.

When I passed over the coins, he took out his item box.

Oh.
It’s that spell.

Now that I think about it, if I remove Incantation Omission, will I have to talk to finish?

Without Incantation Omission or Incantation Reduction, the correct spell and timing are needed to invoke magic.

The explorer cast the spell of party formation.

I selected “Yes” for the admission confirmation, and the explored entered the labyrinth.

I entered inside as well.

“This is the fourth floor.”
“Eh?”

As soon as I entered , the explorer said that.

So suddenly, I couldn’t even react.

Ahead of the wall I just passed through, was the labyrinth entrance.

A black wall behind and a small room with three paths extending to the left, right, and front.

It’s very predictable.

“Party Released” comes to mind.

The explorer left through the wall behind the bewildered me.

Once you leave the entrance of the first floor, don’t you have to transfer using dungeon walk?

I thought that was the case.

The explorer didn’t cast anything, but I came here directly.

Incantation Omission?
I have no idea why.

Apparently, you can specify the designation when entering.

Or is it fraud?
Though always doing business in the labyrinth’s entrance, probably means it isn’t fraud.

Anyway, I took out durandal and advanced.

Mino Lv 4

There’s no doubt that it seems to be the fourth floor.

A level four monster appeared.

It’s a cow.

A brown buffalo.
However, it’s body isn’t that long and gives a kind of cramped feeling.

From its head, two horns extend.

It doesn’t have a single speck of adorableness.

The cow ferociously glared this way.

I’ll try to shoot “Fireballs” at it.

The Mino was beginning to charge.

Because it didn’t try to avoid it, the fireball hits it en route.

Although temporarily pressed back, it shook off the fire and started to charge again.

I sent the second shot.

The Mino was hit in the front again.

I wonder if it’s resistant to fire.
Though that feeling isn’t there.

But isn’t it kind of stupid to keep charging?
Just straight at me.

It’s not a wild boar damn it, it’s a cow.

I prepared Durandal, and the Mino stopped right in front of my eyes.
I released the third shot.

Its horn was swung.
It seems I can’t defeat it with three shots of “Fireball.”

Even though I received it with the sword, it’s power is considerable.
It would be a dangerous to be hit by that horn.

This is nothing but a bad situation.

I drove Durandal into it’s torso.

Hide

All that remains is its hide.

I made sure there was no one around and put it away in my item box.

I got scared and reflexively used Durandal.

It’s the fear that the monster will come and stab me with the horn.
This is scary.

It’s because it has horns.

If it was something like human skin, wouldn’t it pierce right through?

Even if you wear leather armor, it doesn’t mean your whole body is covered.

I could counter the Mino’s horn by getting the rank 5 or 6 full body armor, but it’s a waste of points.

Incidentally, the foot armor rank 3, Boots of Acceleration, as the name suggest, have increased movement speed. I thought it would

increase the rate at which I explored the dungeon, but it only becomes fast in a battle.

The equipment level 5, Fragarach, doesn't have MP absorption.

So, durandal must be out for MP recovery.

Surprisingly , the bonus equipment wasn't useful.

Though plate armor may be sold, given the difficulty of movement and heaviness of the armor, it isn't practical.

Given what I now know, the Green Caterpillar was great.

Even though it hurt, the ramming attack is just its body.

As for the Needle Wood, it just swings branches.

Branch arms.

Although the Kobolds' were also scary, kobolds were weak.

Even a single shot of magic was enough.

Now that I think about it, was it bad I abandoned leveling up on the third floor?

If the level 4 Mino could be defeated in three shots of magic, it wouldn't be a problem.

Or, since it's my first time seeing it, it's scary and is just a matter of getting used to it?

At any rate, there's no doubt this is the fourth floor.

The explorer didn't cast a spell.

If you choose which floor you want to go to when you enter the labyrinth, you should be able to go there.

Should I try and see?

Although I think it's bad to enter and immediately exit, I can't deal with the fourth floor.

I returned to the adventurers guild using warp and decided to do the experiment another day.

“After dinner, give me the hot water and lantern.”
“Thank you for your patronage.
Hot water and a lantern, as a special service will be 21 nars.

I returned to the Vale Pavilion and received the key.
When I ordered it, I was told the price.

The hot water is 20 nars and I’m certain the rent for the lantern was supposed to be 10 nars.

For some reason the 30% discount worked.

It’s my victory for consistently applying my discount skills.

Even though it won’t change that hot water has been 20 nars, was there some change in the way he treats me.

I wonder if I’m treated as a regular customer from today on?

No.
There was only one time where hot water wasn’t 20 nar.

It’s the day I paid with the inn bill.

One item is 20 nar, though I wonder if the 30% discount applies to multiple items.

Hot water is 20 nar but with a lantern it’s 21? I feel this is strange but pay gratefully nonetheless.

After, I confirmed the “2” character during dinner, wiped my body down with the hot water, and went outside with the lantern.

Already the sun is setting and it’s growing dark.

The lantern doesn’t burn brightly either.
It must be difficult to work with this light during the night.

It can’t be compared with a fluorescent lamp.

It’s only to the extent of being better than nothing.

It reminds me of the standing gas lamps during the Westernization movement of the Meiji period.

Even though a gas lamp can't be compared to a fluorescent light, I think this darkness belongs only to this lantern.

I walked while illuminating the area near my feet.

But while it's dark out, walking with a light is extremely noticeable.

Though there were few, now and then were people carrying lights, too.

There is light wherever someone is, so I know when to use judgment.
This is my limit with the judgment skill.

I can't tell how many people are walking without a light

I used judgment at random but didn't get a hit.

I walked towards the north.

I thought of asking the guy at the hotel if there was a bar somewhere, but decided not to do it.

If I enter a bar without the intention to drink alcohol, it'll be exposed when I come back and receive the key.

The guy may know of a seedy bar, but may worry about losing a customer, but I want to go to a seedy bar.

It's troublesome to ignore the recommendation to a safe bar.

As I was heading north, there was a brightly lit street.

Many adjoining buildings facing the street have their doors flung open.

It's a brothel.

A woman is being displayed in a shop window, another woman on the first floor calls out to the man walking down the street, and the man chooses a woman.

It creates a very festive atmosphere.

It might just be festive compared to the night.

Or, possibly because I'm horny.

Yeah…..
I have no intention of entering.

Although I have no intention of entering, what I see is making my heart throb.

My heart is pounding.

Wait.

Calm down.

I need to think about this calmly.

There's also diseases.

There's the risk of being ripped off, too.

Not entering is the correct choice.

In the first place, I don't think they could compare to Roxanne's beauty.

Even if there was one, it wouldn't be picked for a first time customer.

Having decided not to enter, I gazed at the brothel calmly.

I hear the buzz of the brothel district.

It's kind of fun.

Though,……I can't understand the words.

From what I hear from the brothel, it probably a good thing I don't understand the language.

The women, guests, and pimps were all talking in a language other than Brahim.

I don't mind, since the hotel and guild speak it, but it seems many

people don’t speak Brahim.

It’s the same as the first village.

The local language isn’t Brahim.

The brothel will cater to the local population.

Somewhere out there, there may be a prostitute that understands Brahim.

I took in the atmosphere for a while from the street, then walked off.

Even though I can’t understand the words, there is no reason to enter.

I’m considered an outsider and could get dragged into strange problems.

Since I’m not entering and only listening from the outside, I don’t know how I appear to the surroundings.

Since there is light, there is the possibility of attracting attention.

Although, I wonder if there aren’t many timid men who don’t enter after coming in front of the brothel.

I kept with my wishful thinking, but it didn’t change much.

After that, I wandered the town until the lantern’s light ran out and then, warped back to the Vale Pavilion.

Because it’s bad to come out the inner wall, I came out of the entrance outside wall.

I didn’t see any adventurers use field walk in the town.

It might be bad manners to use it however they please.

Even if there wasn’t privacy.

Since it’s the middle of the night, it should be fine to transfer to the outside wall of the Vale Pavilion.

Returning to the inn, I gave back the lantern, went to my room, and

slept.

I awoke in the middle of the night, left the key, and used warp to appear at the slums.

Success!
It's dark and I can't see anything, but this should be the place I came a while ago.

I think I see the brothel in that direction, but it seems to be closed.

Just in case, I used judgment.

Information for one person came to mind.

Seems like there is someone here.

Although I know from using it in the labyrinth, apparently judgment doesn't depend on the presence of light.

27-years old, Villager Woman

The other party is pretty.

In this darkness, the other side won't be able to see me.

What are you doing in such a place?

When I had that thought, it suddenly became bright around the corner of the road and out came a man with a torch.

There were three men.
The three of them were thieves.

It's the first time I found thieves in this town.

However, their level is low.
Every one of them was in the single digits.

Among the thieves that attacked the village, only two were worth money.

The Lv 19 was worth money but not the Lv 11, that might be the point.

If they’re level isn’t even in the double-digits, I think they’re a bit half-baked as thieves.

The three people have begun to move separately while lighting up their surroundings.

Is it bad to be here?

When I was thinking about leaving with warp, I heard a sound from the other person.

The three men headed towards the noise.

The figure of the woman is lit up by the torches of the men.

The woman tried to rush away but tripped.

The thieves rushed at the woman.

She said some words I couldn’t understand, while the men surrounded her.

One man kicked the woman’s stomach.

“Stop at the face.
body, body”

Do you really have to say such a thing?

It’s just that kind of feeling.

The three men beat the s*** out of her.

The woman tried to appeal, but was ignored.

Before long, a man grabbed her by the hair and dragged her away.

Four people went around the corner and disappeared.

Silence returned to the vicinity.

Since the thieves are gone, I’m not worried about being found here.

Although I’m no longer worried……

I saw something unpleasant.

Because it’s unnatural for a young woman to be in such a place, I wonder if she wasn’t a whore.

Were you trying to escape……..did you need to pull the tea…….were you trying for new clients?

It might be where thieves use violence as punishment.

Thieves certainly exist in this slum and seem to be responsible for the violence.

Chapter 25 - Shopping

I saw something unpleasant.
Three thieves using violence against a young woman.
This is the darker side of the world.
Can't the world just be full of beautiful things?

I don't want to get involved.
I turn my back on it and use warp on the wall nearby.

For now I've at least confirmed where the thieves come from.
I need to be cautious for now and leave.

I head for the third floor of the Labyrinth.

In the Labyrinth, violence is everything.
Only in the Labyrinth does violence solve every situation.

That makes it easy to understand.
You don't need to think about anything here. The strong win and the weak are destroyed.
How straightforward things are can feel relaxing.

I leave the third floor immediately.
I need to check if I can go straight to the third floor from outside the labyrinth.

Outside it is pitch dark and there isn't anyone.
I re-enter immediately.
As I enter I focus my mind on the third floor.

I appear in the small entrance room.
Since they all look the same I'm not sure which floor it is.

I take the copper sword and wand from the item box, and put away the scimitar.

Kobold Lv3

A Kobold Lv3 appears.

It seems I really am on the third floor.
I defeat the demon with a single fireball.

It seems you really can choose which floor you wish to go to as you enter the Labyrinth.

For now I'll hunt on the third floor.
The Mino on the fourth floor is still a bit scary.
That horn is dangerous.

It will probably be fine when I become more familiar with it, but until then it will be rather bad.

My current options are either going to the fourth floor using Durandal until I get used to it, or raising my level here.
Is it too soon to move on?
The horn on the Lv4 Mino will be a real threat until I can defeat it with just three spells.

I also found the thieves in the slums, so it's no longer necessary to hurry making money in the Labyrinth.
It's hard to make money on the third floor, but dangerous to move on.

After hunting some more and consuming MP I return the the small room at the entrance and pull out Durandal.
I want to test where I can go when I leave.
I step into the black wall and focus on the fourth floor, and then appear in a small entrance room.

Is it a success? Probably.
I head further into the Labyrinth.

Green Caterpillar Lv4

It's a success, it's possible to use the entrance to skip floors.
I charge in and swing Durandal.
The sword splits the Green Caterpillar in two.
A single blow on a Lv4.

Mino Lv4

Mino Lv4

Kobold Lv4

A group appears next. There's three of them.

Will group size increase as floors increase?
I can't be sure since I've only pushed through three floors, but I haven't encountered a group of three before.

Will I end up with a group of 20 on the 20th floor, and 30 on the 30th?
Hopefully that isn't the case.
I'm not sure how many floors there are but I'd be dead before the tenth.
At some stage there may be enemies that aren't affected by magic too.

A party size has a limit of six here, so I'd like to think there is a cap on the size of monster groups.

To start I use the sand storm.
The Mino might have a resistance to fire magic.
A storm of sand attacks the demons.

None of them were defeated though.
Even the kobolds are stronger, is a second spell necessary?

I tried to finish it quick and failed, so I'll need to be more cautious.
I use the sand storm again and this time the kobold is defeated.

There are 2 Mino's remaining.
One charges forward and I stab it with Durandal. The saint sword penetrates it easily.
The Mino becomes smoke and disappears.

At the same time the second Mino charges in and attacks with it's horn.
I hurry to avoid it but the horn grazes my arm.

AAAAAAAAhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh!
DANGER!

It grazed me!

I madly swing Durandal around, and it lops off the Mino's head.
The demon becomes smoke and vanishes.

Hide.

It dropped hide.
That was dangerous.
Fighting in the Labyrinth is risking my life.
There's always the chance it could become fatal in an instant.

Did the two sand storms effect the Mino's?
They seemed scratched, but I'm not sure if it was much.
Maybe wind will be more effective.

The fourth floor is quite dangerous.
The danger of being hit by that horn is huge.
If there is just one I can handle it if I remain calm, but what would happen if I get surrounded?

Even if I don't come across a room full of demons, just running into three Mino's could be fatal.
I can't even imagine how bad it would be if I ran into four.

Should I retreat? Yes, retreat.
I decided to go back to the third floor.
It's a strategic retreat.
The third floor is better for now.

After that I continued to hunt on the third floor.
When I finally decided to leave the Labyrinth and went outside the morning sun had already risen.

Oops.
I wanted to warp back to town while it was still dark.

I wanted to check on the brothel again.
People should be walking around there again at this time and I wanted to mix in and go past.

Since I was wandering around with the lantern last night I probably

went to sleep a bit later, so maybe I woke up a bit later too?
I probably went to the labyrinth later because of the trip to the slums.

Using Warp after it has become light stands out too much.
Well, I guess it can't be helped this time.

Today will be a busy day for the city.
After returning to the hotel, having breakfast, and having a short break in my room, I then walk around the city.

There are various kinds of things I'd like to buy.
First I looked around the cloths shops for a black mantle with a black hood that could hide my face.
If I want to hunt thieves at night without standing out then I'll need to wear something like that.

Are there a lot of people who wear mantles? I found them rather quickly.
It's in a cloths stall which is right in front of the hotel.
There's a lot of cloths neatly folded and on display.

I have a feeling the price might be a bit high.
Maybe it's classified as a high quality item here?

"How much is this?"

I asked the shop owner.

"It's 4,000 nars."

It seems high.
A day's income in that Labyrinth would totally disappear.

"Really?"
"The cloak is a fine article that uses flannel."

So it's not a mantle, it's a cloak?
Even after the merchants recommendation I return the cloak.
It probably is fine quality, but I don't really need a fine quality item.

Off to the side there are some green dyed pants.
It seems to be soft material that might be usable as underwear.

It has a drawstring to close it, so it probably is this worlds underwear.

“How much is this?”
“40 nars.”
“I’ll take two thanks.”

Now I have some cloths to change into.
It might be expensive, but my sense of value was based on it being 1/100th of the price of the cloak.

“Thank you, that will be 56 nars.”

The 30% discount works.
I pull out 56 copper coins to pay, and put the underwear away in the rucksack.

It seemed like the discount didn’t apply when I was just asking about one item, but then it worked when I bought two.
The same thing seemed to happen with the hot water in the Vale Pavilion.
Maybe the discount doesn’t work on single items?
I’ll try it.

I head over to the armor merchants shop.
It’s the same armor merchant I was at 5 days ago. I sold multiple items and the 30% bonus seemed to work.
Things might be different buying than selling though.

“Hello, Can I help you?”
“I’m looking for a gauntlet.”

When I’m defending against an attack with my sword or wand it will be easy for my fingers to be injured.
It’s questionable whether HP absorption can replace a severed finger.
I should equip something on my hands.

“Here.”

The armor merchant guides me to a place with a lot of gauntlets made of iron are lined up.

I'd prefer one with high defense, but the price for that probably isn't good.

Leather Mittens.

This seems to be the cheapest.
It seems like the gear I used for Kendo.
It only covers as far as the wrist though, and the upper arm is still exposed.

"How much for these Leather Mittens?"
"80 nars."

Is that good?
I don't really know.

"How about these Leather Gloves?"
"Those are 120 nars."

So the Leather MIttens are the cheapest.
The difference between the mittens and the gloves is, the gloves have all fingers properly made, but the mittens just have a thumb and two divisions for fingers.

The mittens should be similar in convenience to the gauntlets for Kendo, so they should be fine for using the wand and Durandal.

Leather mitten: empty skill slot.

"Can I buy this?"

I looked for one with an empty skill slot and presented it to the armor merchant.

"Sure."

It doesn't seem like the discount works on the single item. Two or more items mush have to be bought or sold for benefits.

I hand over 80 copper coins and obtain the Leather mittens.

After that I bought two pairs of socks, two washcloths, a hooded cloak, a small and medium wooden tub, two ropes, and a candle.
The small tub can be used as a cup, and the spare rope is for

laundry. The medium tub, spare washcloth and candle were things I grabbed in case I needed them.
The small candle was 10 nars. I'm not sure how long it would last but I don't think it could replace borrowing the lantern.

The cloak with the hood was a bit worn, but found rather quickly.
It can hide the face quite well because it's a big hood.
I could not find soap, toothpaste, or a toothbrush.

It's starting to become evening when I finish shopping and return to the hotel.

"I'll have another nights stay with dinner, and order some hot water for after dinner."

I speak to the hotel man.
If I ask like this the hot water should be discounted as well.

I could have dinner somewhere else, but this is convenient and the rate of payment feels advantageous.

Or maybe not?
For a guest who goes to the Labyrinth, you never know when he might die.
After paying for a day, you might die in a ditch somewhere.
Maybe people don't normally pay days in advance?
Maybe some classes don't have enough money for a night?

Nobody knows when I'll die in this world.

"238 nars is fine since you're a regular customer."
"Thank you."

I was starting to think about something unpleasant, but I shake off the thoughts.
I pass over 2 sliver coins and 38 copper coins and receive the key to room 311.
I take my luggage to the room before the meal.

Since I am staying at the hotel I've only grabbed the bare necessities, but what would I need to settle down in this world?

That night I decided to start exploring the fourth floor.
My Wizard job had reached level 21 and I wanted to test how much magic was needed to defeat a Mino.
After having a quick look in the slums I headed straight for the fourth floor.

Kaga Michio: 17 year old male. Wizard Lv 21, Hero Lv19, Explorer Lv 22, Merchant Lv1, Herbalist Lv1.
Equipment: Sandals, Leather Mittens, Leather Armor, Durandal.

It will be different this time.
First of all I put Wizard in the first job position.

There may be no difference if it's third, but I don't know for sure.
While fighting with magic it may be best to make it first.
It seemed that I couldn't move explorer while there was something in the item box so I had to unload it onto the bed.

I stopped using 10x decrease in required experience til next level and equipped a fifth job.
Merchant and Herbalist have the effects of a small increase in Intellect so they were set as the fourth and fifth job.
The stat related to magic is probably Intellect.
Magic damage may go up if I increase my Intellect.
The effect might be small since I haven't raised those levels.

I want to use the additional offensive power of the wand, but I use Durandal instead for safety.

Mino Lv4

Needle Wood Lv4

Since a group of two appeared straight away I quickly used Fire Storm.
I used a second and third shot as soon as the fire went out.

The Mino approaches.
It's movement appears to be faster than the Needle Wood.
I blocked a thrust from it's horn with Durandal.
Neither enemy is defeated in the three shots.

I dodge another strike from the horn.
The Needle Wood catches up.
I’m struck with a branch while paying attention to the Needle Wood.
It’s painful but couldn’t be avoided.

I use a fourth fire storm.
Sparks attacked the two demons.
While I’m being cautious of the Mino’s horn it collapses.
The Needle Wood collapses at the same time too.

Hide.

Branch.

Four spells.
It’s the first time I’ve defeated a Mino Lv4 and a Needle Wood Lv4 so I’m not sure how effective my changes were.
It will probably be dangerous to fight om the fourth floor while I can’t defeat things with just three spells.

I put the Hide & Branch into the item box and warp back to the third floor.

Chapter 26 – Rain

After hunting in the third floor of the labyrinth, I went out. It was still pitch black outside.
Because yesterday I left past sunrise, I reacted by being too careful this time.

I'll take a look at level 4 once.
I can't hunt for a very long time. Fighting with magic consumes MP and then using Durandal afterwards recovers MP.
On level 4, it is a good idea to pull out Durandal from the beginning.
[Explorer] leveled up to Lv23, so I might be able to defeat a Mino.

Because it reached Lv23, if placed as the first job, I will have more bonus points.
However by removing [Warp] and [Job Setting], I can add [Required Experience 1/10].

To put [Explorer] as the primary job, I need to empty the item box first.
I would prefer not to remove the item box's contents in this place.
It was a mistake making [Wizard] the first job.

Mino Lv4

I launched a [Fireball] at the Mino that appeared.
I cast as soon as I encountered it, as expected it couldn't avoid it.
I fired three shots before approaching it.

The Mino endured all three shots. It raised its horns and charged.
I received it with Durandal. I am pushed back for a moment with brute force.
I took a step back and cast a fourth [Fireball].

I swung Durandal and it clashed with the Mino's horn.
The fourth [Fireball] hit the Mino.
The Mino dies engulfed in flames.

Does it still take four magic shots?

Mino Lv4

On the next Mino I will not use magic, I will only use Durandal.
Thrusting the sword at Mino from the front, I slashed downward with Durandal, but the Mino didn't fall.

I haven't taken down a Mino yet using only Durandal, without resorting to magic.
It seems not to go down with one blow.

It strikes with its horns.
I flipped to the side and strike the cow's head.
The Mino is defeated.

When I'm calm and careful, I can deal with the Mino's horns.
Or am I getting a little used to this?

Although, when I'm surrounded by many of them, it is scary.
I still need to keep leveling up.

After hunting twice, I went outside again.
I felt somewhat cheerful.
It's almost dawn.

It will be bad if I am seen by anyone, so I return to the Labyrinth once more and use [Warp] to travel.

I pass through the black wall of [Warp].
The place where I came out, was pitch black. Probably because of the shadow cast by the building.
If successful, I should have appeared inside the Brothel District.

I wait a bit for the sun to rise.
It did not become very bright.
When I surveyed my surroundings, I found a brighter corner.
Is east over there?

When I look towards the East, it appears to be cloudy.
It is not very bright because of the clouds.

I look towards the West.
Stars that I expected to see, are not visible.

I did not notice that the whole sky is cloudy.
Because I don't see stars in Tokyo even when the sky is clear, I don't feel any discomfort.

When I think about it, it's always been sunny ever since I come to this world.
Naturally in this world there will be cloudy days and rainy days too.

What shall I do about an umbrella?
Yesterday in the city I did not see any umbrellas.
I don't think it will rain inside the Labyrinth.

When thinking about this and that, a person has come out from the Brothel.
Because it is still dark he had a lantern.
His job is [Villager]. Is he a guest?
When the man left the Brothel, he walked across to the other side.

After all the light still stands out.
Though I can't see the face, there is obviously someone there.
Because there isn't much light, it's better not to move around.

After some time, the surroundings got slightly brighter.
After all it is cloudy.

It would look strange if I am here for too long.
I left the place and walked along the road.

I was behind cover at the far back of the street where the brothel building stood.
I have not actually been here before. I just peeped from the other side of the road.
Seems there is no limitation to [Warp], even just by looking.
[Warp] seems to be able to go to any place I have seen.

Little by little people are leaving the Brothel and walking down the road.
I go across the brothel road and mix in among them.

I also check the other side of the corner, where the thieves came out previously.
There was a house in the short alley.

It does not seem to be a brothel.
Is the house a hideout for thieves? Seems like the office of a crime syndicate.

Looking at it strangely is not a good idea, so I walk past it quickly.
It's a two story building, neither luxurious nor worn-out, just an ordinary one.
If they barricaded inside there, it would be difficult to handle them.

The Brothel zone also looks like an ordinary street in the morning.
It does not have the atmosphere of the Slums.
Average customers would not come near it, if it exuded such an atmosphere.

I make my way back to the Inn.

On the way back, I pass by the Slave Traders.
I wonder if Roxanne is still sleeping?

"It has become clouded"

I enter the Inn and talk with the Innkeeper while receiving the room key.

"Around here although it seldom rains, when it does rain, it continues to rain. It can rain for several days"
"Is that so?"
"Probably"

I don't want it to rain much.
There are no umbrellas.

"It is time for breakfast, is that OK?"
"Yes it's OK"

However my wish was futile, while I was eating breakfast the rain continued.
It isn't full scale downpour, but a gentle rain.

I look outside the Inn, not a single person walking down the street had an umbrella up.
Are there no umbrellas in this world?

Most people only put on a cloak.
Some of them running around look no different than usual in appearance.

Yesterday I bought a similar cloak to theirs.
That seems to be this world's rain gear.
That explains why I found it immediately.

I bought it without being aware it was rain gear, how lucky.
I can go out of the Inn with this.

After I rested, I wore the cloak and ran to the adventurer guild.
Though not a full scale downpour, there are many scattered showers, rather than small sprinkles.
Will it continue raining like this?

I guess I'll stop searching for the thieves while it's raining.
There seems to be water-repellent coating done to the cloak, but it is still cloth after all. It will soak if I walk about in the rain.
Even the thieves will not go out in the rain very often.

I warp to the Labyrinth from the wall in the Adventurer's Guild.
Fortunately it does not rain inside the Labyrinth.
Even though I say fortunately, naturally that is the case.

In the end it continued to rain for two days.

"The rain has become weak. It will likely stop soon."

The Innkeeper told me that in the morning, two days after it started raining.

"Is that so? Then I can't go out yet"
"Indeed"

After I ran back in the rain from the Adventurer's Guild, the Innkeeper gave me the key.

If I warp to the inner wall of the Inn, I will not get any rain on me but…
If they checked my intelligence card, it will be found out that I'm not an adventurer.

Is there a better way?

“On top of that several days ago there was a murder, I should refrain from going out”

I use the opportunity to gather information.

“That event? In this Inn there is no danger. It is safe as long as you don’t go to the Slums or Brothel.”
“I understand why”

He seem to have some information.

“That’s because it’s a power struggle between the thieves hanging out in the slums of this town”
“Power struggle right”
“Just between us, some of the thieves are connected to the Knights Order”

The Innkeeper lowers his voice.

“Oh”
“I don’t know how they did it. Possibly one of the thieves’ sides leaked the information. Because of that a while ago, the Knights Order moved in and purged the remaining thieves. I heard that the thieves who were driven out of town and attacked a village were beaten.
“I see”

Are they the thieves I defeated?

“The one murdered a few days ago, was one of the thieves who remained in town. Rumor has it that not all of them were driven out or annihilated, some of them still remain”
“They are hiding somewhere”
“I wonder. While the slums are somewhat disorderly, they will not cause trouble in broad daylight downtown under the eyes of the knights. In this area it’s safe”

The Innkeeper procures information mainly related to the safety of the Inn and its visitors.
Would he even know the whereabouts of the thieves?

“Understood. Is it time for breakfast?”
“Yes, go ahead”

I managed to get the main outline from the Inn’s conversation.
Seems there are thieves in the slums and also driven out thieves.
Of course I will aim for driven out of town thieves.

Because there is a possibility that I am resented by the driven out thieves, dealing with this should be the right way.

It may be difficult to attack the barricaded base.
In the brothel district that building is the town’s remaining thieves’ base, it is hard to get in there.

Driven out thieves that are hidden somewhere, even if they are vigilant their defense would be insufficient.
After all they suffered the extermination plan from the Knights Order.

The other day late at night, the violence I saw toward a woman by the thieves remaining in the town is not right, however I am not an ally of justice who will drive them out.
They are members of the ones that attacked the village.
They are badgers of the same hole.

After breakfast I return to my room, through the slightly opened wooden window I was idly watching for the rain to stop.
Rain did not stop falling.
As expected it’s been raining continuously for more than two days.
Even if it becomes a drizzle, it still persists.

The rain stopped around midday.
Like this it is fine to enter the Labyrinth.
Because [Wizard] reached Lv24, I can now defeat the Mino with three magic attacks so I can advance to exploring level 4.
As I have walked around quite a bit, shouldn’t I find the boss room soon?

It took a considerable amount of time before I was able to defeat Mino.
If I seriously explored from the beginning I might have already cleared level 3.

The 4 silver paid to an Explorer to enter level 4 was wasteful.

Because the rain stopped, I left the Inn.
First I went to the Adventurer's Guild to sell items.
The Adventurer's Guild seems to be opened 24 hours because adventurers use the wall, but the counter is only opened during daytime.

"Give me nourishment pills and strengthening pills, 2 of each"

I requested to the woman in her 30's who returned with my payment, after applying the [30% Discount] skill.
I think just in case I should have recovery means other than Durandal.
While currently fighting in the Labyrinth it is unnecessary, but I can't be sure what can happen when facing thieves.

Just to make sure [Discount] skill applied.
When buying anti-hardness and anti-paralysis pills, the discount did not work.
Most likely it will not take effect this time also.

But you never know when by some chance it might work.
Like the time when I asked for hot water and lantern together.

Come to think of it, only that time when buying several medicines from her the discount was not effective.
I wonder why it did not work only that time.
Is it not effective when buying multiple things?

The woman in her 30's left once and come back with the pills.
They are blue pills and red pills.
When examining, blue one is nourishment pill and red pill is the strengthening one.
I reached a point where I can differentiate them by the colour.

"Thank you very much. That will be 60 Nars each."
"Yea"

After all 30% discount is not in effect.

"…… I'm sorry, can you pay in copper coins?"

She said while I was taking out 2 silver coins and 40 copper coins.
Why?
Is it the custom to pay with copper coins for nourishment and strengthening pills?

“Sorry”

Because it can’t be helped I take out copper coins from the pouch.

“Thank you very much. I have received the payment successfully.”

The woman in her 30’s, in exchange for 60 copper coins gave me a single pill.
One by one, as if to confirm, she split them.

Possibly she cannot calculate 60 x 4 = 240.
Or she thinks it can’t be done that way. If you understand how much 240 Nars is, you can subtract two silver coins from the 240 Nars.

I don’t understand this world’s education level. Because of the existence of reading proxy people, it seems the literacy rate wouldn’t be high.
There is also a merchant skill called [Calc] for performing calculations.
Come to think of it, if you aren’t a merchant, just ordinary villagers might not be able to calculate at all.
If they can’t calculate, so there cannot be a 30% discount.

However, 30% sale price increase works at the Guild.
Why does it work when selling?

“Who does the calculations for items the guild buys?”

I asked the woman who is around her 30s.

“It is done when sent to the Guild Temple. I think I saw it at the time of job changing”
“……”

It is embarrassing seeing that said.
It appears that they think I am an adventurer.
Well, I have come out many times from the wall in to the

Adventurer’s Guild with [Warp] which is like [Field Walk].

“At that time broken items are rejected. Things such as Kobold Salt will dissolve in the rain if not put in Item Box. Because you can’t sell them please be careful”
“I understand”

Luckily, the woman in her 30’s, who didn’t reply back, didn’t find it strange.
She even explained another thing.
Kobold salt can’t be cut in two to get 2 of them.

I receive the pills and left the Adventurer’s Guild.

Money total calculations from guild purchases are not done by around 30’s woman.
Perhaps, if she does it then 30% price increase will never work.

Let’s go by this theory.
The [Sale Price Increase] and [Discount] skills don’t work with her.
If calculations can’t be done, then can’t raise or lower value by 30%.

Then on the other hand, why is it effective on other people?

[Calc].
The existence of the skill stands out.

It seems not just merchants but weapons dealers, armour dealers, also slave traders have [Calc] skill.
In regards to Inn I don’t understand.
Professions like merchant can’t do the job if they can’t do calculations.

Would it be because [Sale Price Increase] and [Discount] skills affect this [Calc]?
[Calc] is a skill that calculates unconsciously and displays the answer in one’s mind.
When calculating it should always be used.
I think when merchants calculate selling and buying price, my [Sale Price Increase] and [Discount] skill activate at the same time and they take the automatically calculated value given by the [Calc] skill.

If that’s the case, it makes sense it’s only effective when trading several things.
Because it is not necessary to calculate when buying and selling single goods.

Well, it is just one hypothesis.
It’s just one, but I think its close enough.
When I finished my hypothesis, I switched my mind and concentrated on the search.

I wonder around in the city looking for thieves.
More than two days raining spent pointlessly, it is too late to get them back.
There’s no time left until the deadline.

I can appraise all the people walking down the road.
Even places with a single person, I appraise without exceptions.
Even if I can see it or not.
I could appraise even if I couldn’t see clearly what was on the other side of a wooden window.
In the case there is a wall, as one could expect, I was unable to appraise inside a building.

The slums are dangerous and so, I can’t enter it saying it’ll be easy.
I made up my mind and enter.

I went in.
When I enter the Slums, I found a thief on the road.

Chapter 27 – Thief Extermination

There is a thief in the Slums.
I quickly go into cover and stealthily observe things.
I moved immediately after seeing him, I don't think anyone noticed me.

The thief is a 38 year old man, [Thief] Lv18.
Dressed in clothes that weren't exactly rags, he behaved like a homeless person.

But his behavior is unusual.
It can be understood while secretly observing.
The man was sometimes glancing in one direction.

Will a third party have the same feeling looking at the current me?
In my case, I'm hidden from sight while staring at him.

The thief is doing nothing but lying down on the road, but he frequently turns his body and each and every time gazes sharply in the same certain direction.
He is probably looking in that direction, at the building next to the Brothel where a thief came in and out.
I think he is scouting that place.

Are the thieves that stayed in town in that building, and the thieves who were expelled out searching for it?
I guess this man is with that gang.

Although it's a secret investigation, it doesn't look very skillful.
Speaking of that, won't he be easily found out?
Or will nobody take notice of something like a homeless guy?
I stay hidden and continue watching the thief.

A stake out seems like a test of the bladder.
The thief moved and the sensation from my bladder strengthened and I almost couldn't hold it.

The man stands up and comes over here.

Walks this way and passes by where I am hiding.
Going this way leads to exit of the Slums.
It's good that I did not have to go deeper inside.

Another person approaches him.
Just as one is passing the other, the thief knocked the person passing by off his feet.

I am puzzled by what suddenly happened.
Was the man who got hit, not very strong?

The thief didn't run away or check the result and casually walks away.
Was that possibly someone he knew?

The man who was hit, is lying face down on the road.
Besides, there does not seem anyone minding this.
Is that normal here?

Before I lose sight of the thief, I also move.
I follow from behind.

Looks like detective drama on TV.
I didn't think that I would mimic a detective in a different world.

I need to be cautious not to forget to check behind me and make sure I am not being followed.
While looking ahead I pay attention behind me.
This is quite difficult.

The thief while walking, also kept glancing back.
I occasionally change between thief's left side and back, I don't think he has noticed.

When he is worrying too much about behind him, his movements become unnatural.
The thief does not seem to be accustomed to this.
Because half the thieves group got destroyed, do they not have any talented people left?
Or because of the rain, was the thief in a hurry?
I'm lucky if he came to check the hideout in a hurry because the rain stopped.

The thief goes across the town of Vale and leaves through the south gate.
Outside the city walls there is a field, further outside there was a forest.

It's one thing with many people downtown, but it'd be impossible to continue to pursue outside the town.
Rice field plants are not tall. He would notice me immediately.
If I crawl he would probably not notice, but I would stand out for a different reason.
If an enemy or monster approaches he'd easily notice, seems outside the ramparts it's all cultivated land.

When I made sure the thief disappeared into the forest, I stopped tailing him.

Are the thieves on the town's outskirts?
It may be difficult to remain hidden in the Slums, which is home ground for the thieves that stayed in town.
I think that they are more likely to hide outside of town than in the slums.
Thieves who were driven out, are hiding outside the town. It is appropriate to think that that guy returned there.

I return through the east gate, after emptying my bladder, I go out of town through the south side.
I pay attention to the surroundings, advancing while using [Appraise].

Other people would find the appearance of me looking around restlessly suspicious.
Well, it can't be helped.

There are few people who walk around inside the forest.
If the thief had found me previously, even if he knew me or not, he would nevertheless stay vigilant.
I can't disregard the possibility of aiming for a surprise attack on the enemy.

If discovered by the previous thief, opportunity would become a pinch in an instant.
No matter what, I must not be discovered first.

I was walking slowly without making any noise.
After the rain it is hard to walk in the mud.
In addition, the south side of town is too large.
I was looking until evening, but couldn't find it.

When day becomes dark, I use [Warp] to return to the Adventurer's Guild.
After having dinner, I warp outside town to observe for a while.

Tomorrow I will continue searching the south side forest.
However, even searching the whole day I could not find it.

After dinner, I go outside of town again.

Tomorrow is the date agreed upon with the slave trader.
There is no more time.

Should I aim for the thieves remaining in town?
However, even if it's the Slums, it would be hard attacking the thieves hideout in the city.
Irrelevant to me, those thieves are unlikely to attack me if left alone and I'm not inclined to make a move on them.

I should aim to target the driven out of town thieves.
In that case it'd practically be legitimate self-defense.
It might not hold; however, the difference between legitimate self-defense in response after one is attacked and doing a preventive attack when one is threatened is always ambiguous in reality.

When debating, I noticed a light glimmer in the corner of my view.

I found him.
Same as yesterday, Lv 18 [Thief].

The source of light is moving slowly.
Is he about to leave or is he about to return to his hideout?

The sun has already set.
The area is pitch black, each step is uncertain.
Thanks to the darkness I won't stand out, but it would be a serious matter if I got caught in some tree roots.
If I fall down and make a loud noise, then everything would be

ruined.

I assess the movement of the light and warp behind the thief.
When I come out of the dark wall, the lantern light reveals a man.
The thief with the hanging lantern illuminating his steps, walked slowly in the middle of the forest.

The lantern light faintly shines on the surroundings.
I just barely knew where I was placing each step.
Because I was following right behind the man carrying the light, I'm certain where I'm going.

Approaching the thief at this distance, there is no danger of losing sight of him.
I walk slowly. Matching the thief with short steps not to fall down, while being careful not to make a sound.

Before long, the man arrives at the hillside of a small cliff.
In the cliff there is a cave.
A door was put on the entrance of the cave and was shut firmly.

The man knocks on the door.
After a little while the door opens and someone shows their face.

31 year old, man, [Thief] Lv24.

Is that the hideout?

Lv24 thief says something and the door opens widely, he shows the Lv18 thief inside.
Lv18 thief enters the cave.
The Lv24 thief after letting in the man, carefully examined the surroundings looking left and right.
From that carefulness I can judge that this cave is certainly the thieves' hideout.

At last, I found it.
The driven out of town thieves are hiding there.
Attacking that cave is bound to be a big catch.

When the Lv24 thief closes the door, the surroundings become pitch black.

I briefly check the surroundings.
There are no signs of lights. Nothing showed up when using [Appraisal].
There is nobody.

I cast [Warp] and return to Vale pavilion's outer wall.

In reality, I wanted to check inside for the number of people, thieves' levels, and their daily routine for a number of days, but I don't have such time.
Sink or swim, I have to strike tonight.

It is hard to think what the thieves' movements at the base will be this midnight.
Or course, because they're being chased, I wouldn't know unless one is captured.
There were no signs of anything around the cavern.
I don't think anyone has found this place other than me.

Once I break in, they'll already be awake and dangerous.
A human's weakness is sleeping when its night time.
If I could half sleep like the Innkeeper, then I could sense danger.

I don't know what the daytime actions of the thieves are.
But are they asleep at dawn?
Assuming they're taking turns for night watch, that's more than half.

Attacking at an even later time might be better than attacking now.
Even if there is a possibility they will escape in the meantime.

Can't keep watching because I am only one person.
It's necessary to sleep well to be in shape.
I go back to my room and lay on the bed.

From the excitement of finding the thieves, I am wide awake.
When I think that I will commit murder soon, I think about various things.
And yet, before I knew it, I fall asleep.

I woke up early.
I understand the feeling. Perhaps I can't sleep soundly for a long time.

I might have braced myself to not oversleep.

I take out Durandal and put it on my waist, put on a cloak and carry the rucksack on the back.
Because level up is not necessary, Durandal must be used to fight.

Copper sword and scimitar are stored in the item box.
A second sword may be needed for something, but hanging on the waist, it might get in the way.
Need to calculate the advantages and disadvantages of both possibilities, it is better not to carry a hindrance.
If I am in a situation where a second sword is needed, it means I became unable to use Durandal and I fear at that point in time I've already lost.
I could take it out of the item box if I had some margin of time to do it.

It is the first time I leave the Inn with Durandal equipped, because the cloak is put on it can't be seen from outside.

Kaga Michio, male, 17 years old
[Explorer] Lv26, [Hero] Lv23, [Wizard] Lv25, [Warrior] Lv16
Equipment: Durandal, Leather Armour, Sandal Boots

I take off the leather mittens. [TL Note: type of gloves]
When fighting with swords it is better to have them on, but I never know when I may need to use my fingers freely.
To catch something, climb, hold something, use something.
Human hands are a convenient thing.

It might be a good thing to add more jobs, but I am not sure.
Or it may not be the case.
I don't know if there's any meaning to adding low level jobs I rarely use.
There is a possibility that the average level of jobs influence the stats.

At present condition I can use magic and if push comes to shove there is [Rush] and [Overwhelming], these four skills should be plenty.
When I fought the thieves attacking the village I managed to battle in

a state where I had nothing but Durandal. I should be able to fight as is.

Once the preparations are done, I leave the Inn.
Was the conversation with the Innkeeper as usual?
There is a possibility that I am unnaturally tensed in some way.

Perhaps I'm not going to commit a crime according to this world's rules, so there is no need to worry.
I go outside the Inn and take a deep breath.

When I think about killing people it feels hazy, I suppress the feeling.
I have already killed twenty thieves in first village.
Certainly now, it can be summed up like that.

I take off the cloak, turn it inside out and put it back on.
The coat is the countermeasure against blood spurts.
I put on the hood firmly.

I pull out Durandal, face the outer wall of the Inn and cast [Warp].
I recall the area where the cavern is in the forest.

The place where I come out is pitch black.
There are no fires, nor can I detect anyone with [Appraisal].

I confirm there is no one nearby, this time I warp inside the cave.
When the thief entered through the door I incidentally saw the interior.
Because I saw, I can warp to any place I have seen.

The place I exit from [Warp] is pitch black again.
There are no lights or sound. Because there are no stars it's darker.

No. When listening calmly, I can hear the quiet breathing of people sleeping.
There is someone.

I use [Appraisal] on the surroundings.
[Appraisal] is convenient.
I can use it without light.

Inside the cave there are four thieves.

Lv18、Lv24、Lv29、Lv35.

It is perfect.
There is no-one of extremely high level.
Around these levels I can fight sufficiently and expect a bounty reward.
The underlings, have they already been done in or did they run away?

They seem to sleep deeply without putting up a night watch.
Do they have no awareness of danger?
Are there more people in other rooms?
In that case, it's better to finish things beforehand.

I know the location of four people in the pitch black cave.
I don't know the layout of the cave.
In the interior two people, Lv35 and Lv29. One person on this side, Lv24. One person near the entrance.

I come out of warp near the middle of where the Lv18 and Lv24 are.
It is better to gather enemies on one side, so in the beginning I go to where the Lv18 is.

Because I don't know where I'll stepping on, I move by slowly shifting my feet.
The Lv18 thief seems to be sleeping directly on the ground.
In order to not wake him up I lightly poked with my foot to confirm his location.

This is the lower part of the body.
I moved to the location of the head.
Crouch to check where the neck is and place Durandal on the nape of the neck.
Before the final move, I gather my resolve.

The Lv18 thief doesn't make a sound.
I must have severed some of the arteries on his neck.

I think it went well, next I move by slowly shifting my feet to the location of the Lv24.
Half way there I turn my head to confirm, but [Appraisal] did not

show any results for Lv18 thief.

The Lv24 thief seems to be lying down on a bed crudely made of boards or something.
At my feet there's a 5 to 10 centimeter difference in level on the floor.
Probably there's a hole there.

After confirming the same location on the neck of the Lv18 Thief, I pressed down Durandal on the lv 24's neck.
To test I cast [Firestorm].
Magic did not activate.
As expected, [Firestorm] only seems to work on monsters.

Because the difference in levels, this time I cut by fiercely pulling Durandal from below at an angle.
"Gu … …"

The Lv24 man groans.
It's scary when Durandal's blade comes towards me, after I pull it until I don't feel any resistance from his neck. There is no such concern when chopping downwards.
Hence, I put too much strength and it seems I overdid it.

With this the Lv24 is finished but there are still two people to go.
Maybe they woke up from the voice.

I turn in a hurry and cast [Fireball] at the Lv35 thief.
The ball of fire appears overhead.
Surroundings become bright.
Because I am not blinded I can cope.

Inside the cave there were plain earth floor and walls.
There are no such things as furniture.
The thief's makeshift bed was crudely made by piling up a bunch of boards and wooden boxes.

"Uwaa"

[Fireball] hits the Lv35 thief and the thief releases a loud voice.
While hearing the voice, I run up with Durandal and prepare to face the Lv29 thief.

The Lv29 thief suddenly raised his head and shouted.
With Durandal I cut his neck and his head flew off.
The thief's head rolled off to the other side of the bed.

When I gaze at the Lv35 thief, he is rolling around on the ground in agony.
Did you naturally roll out of bed? To put out the fire on purpose?
Because of the excessive and vigorous rolling about, I do not approach carelessly.

The fire goes out and its pitch black again.
It is pitch black but with [Appraisal] I know his location.
Man equips his copper sword. It was hidden under the bed.

I think it's good that he's confused, not understanding what happened. In that condition he won't move so well.
Did he assume the possibility of being attacked?

It is difficult to jump in only knowing the location because of appraisal's result.
I cast [Fire Wall], I remember the man was lying besides the bed.
A wall of fire appears.
I see from my position, the Lv35 thief is on the other side of the bed.

The surroundings suddenly light up, the thief turns around.
Anyone would do that if a light appeared behind them.
Because it is normally a sign that there is someone behind.
While in the dark he thought I moved there.

However, this time, that is not the case.
The thief turning around, created an opportunity against the thief.

I take a large step and swung Durandal from the left.
Dudrandal takes a chunk out of the man's waist.
While moving to the right and cutting, the thief collapses.

Chapter 28 - Acquisition

Four thieves were defeated.
Speaking of level, if you think about how they were the ones that survived after being hunted and driven out of town, it's to be expected, that they'd have a pretty high bounty.

Because I don't want to stay in this place too long, I only perform the necessary work.
First I tore off the thieves' clothes and made them into cloth wrappers.
I cut off and gather the four left wrists.

The [Firewall] I cast when defeating the thief has by chance spread to the bed boards.
The flames have lit up the cave.

When the [Fireball] was released, the thief released a loud voice but no one entered the cave.
There doesn't seem to be any companions nearby.
Even so, I wouldn't welcome someone looting the hard earned spoils and I refuse to stay here for 30 minutes until the intelligence cards pop out.
So I have no choice but to take the wrists.

I collect four copper swords.
There doesn't seem to be anything like leather armour or protectors which are valuable.
Do they have any or did they hide them somewhere?

There may be treasure storage somewhere, but I don't have time to search now.
It may have been a mistake to silence all four members.
Well it can't be helped, there didn't seem to be many options.
I didn't even know if the thieves could speak Brahim language.

Did they decide to keep their swords close to themselves? As expected of thieves in the middle of a dispute.

Even though it was useless this time.

I collect the necessary things and leave the cave.
First I warp near a river and wash the cloak. Blood comes out quickly.
I'm relying only on starlight and intuition, but I probably wasn't washing all the blood away.
I wash my hands and face, but I don't think there is blood on anything other than the cloak.

After putting the cloak to dry on a tree branch, I move to the Labyrinth to waste time.
Because I was feeling excited, I did not explore properly.

As expected, willingly killing someone had a bigger shock on me than I thought.
Even when starting to calm down, I could not composedly explore the Labyrinth.
When a monster appeared from far away, with my current state of mind, I could not fight very well.

I finish early.
When the time was right, I collected the intelligence cards and went to the forest to throw away the useless wrists.
Afterwards I take the cloak and return to the Inn.

I return to my room and wipe my body with lukewarm water.
I lie on the bed while holding the scimitar like a body pillow and close my eyes.
Though I was feeling excited, before long I fell asleep.

After the sun had completely risen, I woke up.
It seems that before going to the thieves hideout my sleeping time was short.
I think I slept well.
I was in high spirits after having exterminated the thieves, but I think my sense of relief was even bigger.

Eliminating the danger from revenge and the goal of getting Roxanne was within sight.
How much I'll receive from the bounty isn't set yet, but I have done

more or less everything that can be done.
If the money is insufficient, then I can't do anything about it.

Where do I exchange the intelligence cards?
While thinking about it, I doze off on the bed.

Specifically, should I do it at Vale town's Knight's Order or should I take it to another town?
Because I exchanged in Vale town just 10 days ago, if I bring bounties consecutively there's a possibility someone would have an eye on me.

The Knight's Order seems to be linked with the thieves from the Slums.
And thieves would not welcome the appearance of a new bounty hunter.
Even if it is the extermination of thieves they themselves are hostile against.

Redeeming the bounty in another town reduces the possibility of being recognised.
However, I don't know if I will be able to properly claim the bounty this time.

I don't know what kind of system bounties use.
When thinking normally, aren't the people of this town and Knight's Order the ones who offer the bounties for this town's thieves in the first place?
In other towns there is a possibility that the bounty money is lower or I might not get paid at all.
There is a possibility the reward money does not go down on the same day you make an inquiry.
I'm worried because the promised deadline to obtain Roxanne is today.

Also, they may ask what the situation was like when I defeated the thieves.
Before, when I claimed the bounty, they didn't ask anything but the village merchant might have explained something.
It could be possible that the merchant that comes here frequently and Vale Town's Knights Order members were acquainted.

The Merchant had credibility and the possibility of the whole village lying is low. Since the thought of driven out of town thieves attacking nearby villages was high, would a brief description have been accepted?

Or the Knights Order warning the village beforehand, is also not unthinkable.
There's also the likelihood that someone ran from the village to report the attack to the Knight's Order.

This time to what degree will they ask about the circumstances?
If I take the intelligence cards to another town and they start asking questions it will be troublesome.
If they end up asking me to show them where I defeated the thieves, wouldn't they'd get suspicious that it's in the outskirts of Vale Town?
Why not bring it to the town of Vale Knight's Order.

When such a possibility is considered, it is appropriate to take the bounty to the Knight's Order in Vale town.
It is possible to explain that the associates of the thieves who attacked the village, held a grudge and that I turned the tables on them when they tried to avenge them.
There is possibility that this would be looked down on, but on this occasion nothing can be done.

After having breakfast, I leave the Inn and go to the opposite building.
I peek inside but I don't see the acquainted knight or beautiful female knight.

Well, what should I do?
It'd be preferable if no one I'm acquainted with, who would recognize me were present.
However, talking with a person who knows the circumstances may be easier.
If for example the Knight's Order and thieves from the Slums are connected and potentially spread the information that I am a thief hunter, it would be better if fewer people knew my face.

Finally the sun rose above the city.
I stroll around the city to kill some time.

I sold the 4 copper swords.
Once Roxanne is with me she might need them, but I will think about it when the time comes.

It seems it's time for Knight's Order's office personnel shift change.
I go when the sun is high, I find the Apprentice Knight near the entrance to the office.

"Ey. Working hard, aren't you?"
"Yes, thank you."

I call out the Apprentice Knight.
Calling him apprentice is my own assumption.
Knight Lv5. He was Lv4 the other day, his level has increased.

"Is it a good time to talk?"
"Yes"
"Actually last night, some odd guys picked a quarrel with me. They seemed to be thieves."

I take out the thieves' intelligence cards and give them to the Apprentice Knight.

"Thieves?"
"Well, certainly they came for revenge and I turned the tables on them"

I puff out my chest.
My plan to look like a big-shot.
In other words, the "It was just a coincidence, a coincidence. It's not like I purposely picked a fight" kind of plan.

Because the Apprentice Knight returned a courtesy smile, it's a success.
Well, I want to assume it was a success.
I say it was a success.
Perhaps he was just amazed.

"Just in case can you show me your intelligence card?"
"Yea"

I present my left arm in front of the Apprentice Knight.

After the knight confirms my intelligence card, he says he'll look them up and goes into the office.

Because I was not questioned, the strategy was a success.
Even if it's to avoid suspicious people, I don't think this plan's chance of success would have changed.

Before long, the Apprentice Knight returns with a small bag.
Seems, this time the beautiful female knight wasn't bothered to come out.

"I was able to confirm it. The four thieves were comrades of the ones who attacked the Somara Village. For that reason they might have been aiming for you."
"That's dangerous."

I am thankful that the explanation came from the other party.

*"There are no more members of the group. I don't think there is much danger anymore."

I receive the small award bag and quickly depart.
A detailed questioning about the thieves' corpses is not needed.
Last time it was the same too, it was the same treatment about the thieves I killed at the village.
The thieves of this world may be treated like that.

It is easier to doing something than worrying about it.
It went better than I thought.

I quickly move into cover and take a peek inside the small bag.
Lots of silver coins and how many gold coins?
After confirming there are 5 or more gold coins I was relieved.

I already have 33 gold coins and more than 400 silver coins.
I have the funds to obtain Roxanne.

I return to the road and go towards the Slave Dealer's house.
Those 10 days were long.
Just one more step to the finish.

I unintentionally make a grin on my face.

Only one last thing remains.
I can't be relieved until this is finished.
Can't cross out the possibility that the Slave Trader might try to swindle me.

"I'm Michio. I desire to be attended by Mr Allen."

I arrived at the Slave Trader's house and told the man who came out.
The man left and let me inside once he returned.

"Please wait here"

I was shown into a room next to the entrance.
In the waiting room where a carpet is spread, I take out Durandal.
A precaution just in case.

Because the Slave Trader knows I have 420,000 Nars, Durandal will not look unusual.
Instead, to indirectly hint at future profits for him, it would be meaningful to show off some luxurious equipment.
Though I don't know if Durandul looks luxurious.
From now on, if he thinks I am a good customer, he will not do strange things.
When I think about it, is leather armour too subtle?

"Michio-sama, sorry for keeping you waiting"
"Yea"

The Slave Trader turned up immediately.

"Are the preparations for the funds done?"
"Well, somehow."
"Then, please come to this room."
"Understood"

I was lead to a room I have been in twice before.

"It was just like what I was expecting."
"I wonder how"

Just like the Slave Dealer said, I was not able to earn it in the

Labyrinth.
Rather, could the Slave Dealer's expectations have been slightly off?
I sit on the sofa, a servant who is not Roxanne comes to serve herbal tea.

"Please drink"

The Slave Trader offered when the servant left.
I place my cup near my mouth and pretend to drink.
If the slave merchant is scheming anything, it would be quick and easy to mix poison into the drink.
I don't need to drink.

I take out the small bag and verify the contents.
The reward is 100,000 and several thousand Nars? The previous time it was more.

I take out 10 pieces of gold from the small reward bag.
And take out the pouch from the rucksack.
There are 428 silver coins that were separated beforehand.

"My bad that there are a lot of silver coins."
"Of course I don't mind"

I turned to the side and chanted in whispers "Item Box Open", I took out 28 gold coins from the item box.
This is 422,800 Nars.

"Please check it."

It is difficult to count when there are 400 silver coins.
It's almost like harassment.

"Thank you. I certainly received it. I will bring her soon, please wait a moment"

When the Slave Dealer was done confirming the number of coins, he put all of them on a plate and left.

He returned soon, while I am waiting without drinking the herbal tea.
Roxanne was the same as then.

She was standing behind the Slave Trader hiding.

She was wearing light green colour tunic and trousers.

The face of a beauty as expected.
I suspected that in the time I haven't seen her my expectations of her beauty grew to unreasonable levels, but that is not the case.
Actually, compared to the one in my memories, the real thing is more beautiful.

"Thank you."

Roxanne sees me and bows.
Dog ears swayed.
Those ears are adorable.

Well, it is questionable whether the bow was done to express gratitude or not.

"My best regards"
"Yes. My best regards too"
"Well then, to perform the contract let me take your intelligence card"

The Slave Trader steps into the room to inform.

"Yea"
"Yes"

I extended my left hand.
Roxanne also comes aside and puts out her arm.

When the Slave Trader recites an incantation, the intelligence cards comes out.
After that Slave Trader recites something mumbling.

"Now the contract is finished. Please check the intelligence cards."

Kaga Michio, Male, 17 years old, Explorer, Freeman
Possesses Slave Roxanne

As suggested when I checked the intelligence card it had changed.
It means the Slave Trader may not have been a swindler after all.
Unless there is magic that can falsify the display that I don't know of yet.

Job shows [Explorer] now.
It seems like the first job is displayed as expected.

“Errm, yes”

In front of me who is releasing a small breath of relief, Roxanne has stretched out her hand.

Roxanne, Female, 16 years old, Beast Soldier, Slave
Owner Kaga Michio

“Indeed. Certainly it seems that the contract has been completed”

Roxanne’s intelligence card seems similar.
I put my arm in front of Roxanne to show her just in case.

“Errr … … is it alright?”

Roxanne’s beautiful eyes take a peek in my direction.
Seems the intelligence card is not something you show to slaves.

“Well, I don’t think there will be any problem if mine is seen.”
“Yes”

Roxanne read my intelligence card.

“With this Micho-sama has become an owner. The owner has the obligation to provide the slave with residence, meals, and is obliged to pay taxes. When you abandon the obligations or treat the slave remarkably unfairly, the contract is annulled. Making changes to the will is a Slave Dealer’s job. On that occasion please use this place”

While showing Roxanne the card, the Slave Dealer explains it plainly.
It gives the feeling of routine work.
Like some commonplace speech.
Has a feeling of Miranda Warnings from American detective dramas.
Like that phrase “You have the right to remain silent.”

I want to ask what is considered being treated remarkably unfair, but don’t want to ask in front of Roxanne.
I want to challenge the limits or so, but it’d be a problem if I thought that way.

Perhaps it is decided in the will, as to what will happen to the slave when the owner dies.
The talk about taxes, I haven't heard about.

"Regarding taxes?"
"It is poll tax. The slave has no obligation to pay. The owner will pay the amount."

Well, naturally there will be taxes in this world.
Though I heard it for the first time.

"Do you know about the taxes?"
"Ye-yes. … … More or less"

If I ask Roxanne about it, she'll answer what she knows.
If Roxanne knows it, I will hear about it afterwards.

"Understood"

I nodded to the Slave Trader.

Chapter 29 – Double

“Well then, I look forward to serving you next time.”

I was seen off by the slave trader and left the trade company with Roxanne.
Roxanne is holding a big case with both hands.
That looks like all her belongings.

I glance at Roxanne frequently.
I should be able to look at her more confidently, but I’m strangely embarrassed.
Roxanne looks even more beautiful when seen under the sunlight.
Her white skin seems to shine.

The tunic is pretty loose, but, as expected, her chest is huge.
That’s a considerable bulge.
Yes, I’m looking forward to it.
While thinking about it, can’t I look at them brazenly?

“Is that not heavy?”

I point at the case and ask.
It feels uncomfortable seeing a woman carry luggage.

“Y-yes. It is fine”
“Let me see it for a bit”
“Y-yes. Here you are”

I stretch out my right hand to take it.
While confirming its weight, there’s another thing I want to do.

I hold Durandal with my left hand and with my right hand I hold the case by the handle.
It was a good idea to take out Durandal, but I didn’t have the opportunity to erase it at the trading company.
While confirming the weight, Durandal is concealed by the case.
I cast [Character Reset] and Durandal is erased.

“Certainly, it is not heavy.”

I say while presenting the case to Roxanne.

At first I was going to carry the case, but then changed my mind.
On one hand as it should normally be a slave’s work to carry the luggage, I would look strange doing so.
On the other, there’s the sword.

Since I’m carrying the case, if a situation arises, it would be hard to deal with it.
As Roxanne does not have a sword, I would have to deal with it.

I think that’s precisely where modern society has changed: from the notion of carrying a sword in downtown to that of a man carrying things like luggage.
Perhaps, violence in downtown in this world is considered possible.
By carrying Roxanne’s luggage, it may be seen as me valuing her.
However in reality, it will put Roxanne in danger.
I should be able to pull out the sword anytime.

The attendant has the luggage and the master has a sword.
It may be common sense in this world.

I return the case to Roxanne, open the [Item Box] and take out the scimitar.
When I was giving the handle, our fingers touch and my heart throbs.
They were white, slender and soft. They were a woman’s fingers.
Even if I say so, I don’t know what I’m feeling. I wonder what it is.
Are such things fine?

“F-for now let’s get lodging at Vale pavilion. Exit on the next street and straight to the roundabout. Follow me.”
“Y-yes. Certainly.”

I put the scimitar on my waist and start walking.
Roxanne follows me.

I am being accompanied behind me by a woman with luggage.
It is slightly uncomfortable.
From a little while ago, Roxanne also seemed to start being tense.

“By the way, can you read Kanji?”
“Kanji is?”

When I ask, I look back. Roxanne tilts her head out of curiosity.
Her face is beautiful.
No, that’s not it.

Yes. I found out immediately that kanji can’t be read.
It is because the word kanji was not converted to Brahim language.
Because there is no concept of kanji, kanji was not changed from a foreign language.

“Well….could you read the intelligence card?”
“Ye-yes”
“In what language is the intelligence card?”
“It is the Brahim language…….oh. Well… Intelligence cards work directly on the consciousness of the person who is reading. That person will see characters they can read.”

I see. I get it.
It’s not written in kanji, I just see characters that I can understand.
What does a person who can’t read see?

“I see. Can Roxanne read Brahim words?”
“Ye-yes. To a small degree”

I incidentally got a person capable of reading the Brahim language.

“Because I am hopeless at reading and writing Brahim language, I want you to teach me”
“Ye-yes. I will within my range of understanding”
“Thank you. Please take care of me.”

I go past the explorer guild.
Next time I will not need a reading proxy.

“Because you came in 10 days like promised, I have not learned much yet”
“Hmm? You studied at the trading company?”
“Yes. Being able to speak it is definitely an advantage, so I learned the Brahim language.”

So the slave dealer had such a service.
No, is it because being able to speak the Brahim language had a higher value?
I wouldn't say it is an arbitrary service.

"That is the Vale pavilion"
"Yes"

Because we have luggage, we pass through the city without stopping and head directly for the Inn.
Some men passing by are staring at Roxanne.
I feel a bit superior.

However, I wanted to tell them "Don't look at my Roxanne."
Even I have not looked at her directly yet.

We enter Vale pavilion.

"Is it ok to transfer to a double room?"

I ask the innkeeper who was trying to prepare the key.

"Certainly…….double is good?"
"Yes. And add dinner for two"
"A double room is 380 Nars. With dinner, ermm… since you've stayed long term, with special service it is 350 Nars."

Mysteriously the [30% Discount] works when a meal is attached and it becomes cheaper.
Won't he have any questions?
However because he said service, there seems to be some awareness of the discount.

"Understood. That is 350."

Anyway, he sounded grateful, so I had to accept it.
From the pouch inside the rucksack, I pull out 3 silver coins and 50 copper coins and place them on the counter.

"Then both of you take out your arms."

Come to think of it, is this an intelligence card check?
He will know Roxanne is a slave.

As it can’t be helped, I extend my left hand.

“Roxanne, you too.”
“Ye-yes”

For some reason Roxanne took out her hand while looking befuddled.

“The double is on the 5th floor. I will guide you to take your luggage from the previous room and then to the new room.”

The Innkeeper didn’t say anything in particular after seeing the intelligence card.
Does he not meddle in customer privacy?
He takes 2 keys and quickly climbs the stairs.

“Lend me your luggage”

I receive the case from Roxanne and follow after.
Inside the Inn, I don’t need to give preference to the sword.

“Th-thank you”

Roxanne also follows.
We climb the stairs.

“First, please take all your belongings from the room”

Innkeeper unlocks room 311.
I pass the case to Roxanne and enter the room.

I carry the cloak in my left arm. Then I jam the rope, laundry and the remaining luggage into the wooden bucket. I take the jersey from the closet.
I also take out the leather shoes from the bottom closet shelf.

“That is all.”
“Then, let’s go to 5th floor.”

The innkeeper locks 311 and leads the way.

“Errm, I can carry it for you.”
“No, it’s all right.”

I stop Roxanne who wanted to carry my luggage even though she's already carrying her case.

We climb the stairs.
3rd floor is no problem. However for the 5th floor, I want an elevator, but there is no such thing.

"Double rooms are only on the 5th floor, and you are the only double room customer."

The innkeeper seems to have read my dissatisfaction and explains.
He doesn't know the reason.

"Hmm."
"This is the room."

The man unlocks the room.

"I see."

I enter it.
There was one big bed and on the inner side, a desk. Ware there 2 chairs because it's a double room?

I put the luggage on the desk.

The size of the room compared to room 311 has not changed much.
It was bigger by a slight extent. Perhaps this was a large room?
Did it feel more spacious because there is no closet?

"There is a closet on the right. The bottom shelf here is self-locking, so please don't leave valuables outside"

Said the innkeeper and opens the sliding door wall to reveal an equipment closet.
The closet was larger than the one in 311.

Afterwards he repeats the same thing as when I first entered room 311, then hands me the key and leaves.

I sit on the only bed.
The softness is about the same as in the 3rd floor room.

I look around while Roxanne is standing near the entrance with

nothing to do.

“Come in and sit on the chair”
“Ye-yes……”

Roxanne goes past nervously.
More than being nervous, I’ve the impression that she’s a bit frightened.

“Well. Is this number 5?”

I show the key to Roxanne.
This room number is 517. Because I know 1, the number on the left side should be 5.

“Ye-yes, that is so.”
“And, this is 7?”
“Ye-yes……”

Umm. The conversation does not continue.
Roxanne’s fright is visible.
Along the way I feel like we were able to have a little more conversation, but once we returned to the hotel, it finished.
Even if I plan to, I would not suddenly push her down in the daytime.

Well when there are only 2 people in a hotel room, it can’t be helped.
Additionally there is only one bed.

“Errr … …. Can I touch your ears?”

Anyhow, I try to ask that request.
If she’s gonna be frightened after all, I feel like I could behave more wildly.
Perhaps. Probably. Maybe.

“Ah……ye-yes.”
“Then, come here.”

Roxanne is summoned.
Reluctantly. It is just skinship, skinship.
Skinship is important.

If she’s frightened of being assaulted, I should convince her I’m not

scary before I end up impatiently putting my hands on her.
Surely. Probably. Certainly.

I want to jump at the beauty in front of my eyes, but I endure it.
I am a rational person.
A person of reason is a saying in English, but I don't know.
Worldly desires disappearing. Break down delusions.

"……Yes."
"Here."

Roxanne who tried to sit on the floor is invited to sit beside me on bed.
I would not sit on the floor.

Because she was next to me, I wanted to embrace her spontaneously, but I endure.
Would that be why she did not come beside me?
Dispersing worldly desires. Extinguish passion.

I place my hand on Roxanne's head.
From her side, Roxanne is also beautiful.
Her hair smoothly glides through my hand.
It's soft and luxurious.
Indeed, it looked nice and similarly felt nice.

Do-don't, don't. I just want to push her down.
Of course, patience is the only way to endure it.
Worldly desires disappearing. Evil thoughts removed.

After enjoying touching her hair to satisfaction, I touch her dog ears.
The ears are large and soft while dangling powerlessly.
The thickness is 1 or 2 centimeters.

Because they're lop ears, they don't have hard parts? Somehow they feel puffed up.
Fluffy and soft.

Not good. It's becoming a habit.
Yes. Why do I need to hold back? I touch them with both hands.

"Although Roxanne is a beauty, your ears are cute."

Roxanne is a beauty yet does not give a cold impression. I think her lop ears are having a big effect.
Her big ears bring out a friendly feeling.

“Eh…….Th-thank you very much.”

I meet Roxanne’s eyes.
Roxanne looks down embarrassed.

I have no choice but to do it soon.
I suppress such impolite thoughts.
Evil desires dispersing. Brutal heart, calm down.

I stroke her ear.
I innocently stroke her ear.
Worldly desires dispersing. Obsession crushed.

I pat her ears and Roxanne calms down a little.
But my worldly desires do not calm down.

I watch Roxanne’s appearance from the side.
There is nothing to dislike.
Even if I don’t like something, I want to put up with it.
Skinship is important.

After all, looking from the side, Roxanne’s chest is big.
No, not that. Don’t think about that.
I want to check, but endure it.
Worldly desires dispersing. Lust smashed.

“Well, once again, please take care of me.”
“Yes, please take care of me too.”

Roxanne lowers her head without minding me touching her ears.
I catch the back of the head that came up.

“These ears are pleasant.”
“That …”
“What?”
“May I call you master?”

Yes.

I want someone to praise me for not throwing myself on Roxanne.
Worldly desires dispersing. Suppressing animal nature.

Is this the result of skinship? Our conversation had continued a little.
If I throw myself at her, we will be back to the beginning of her being frightened.

“That’s right. You can call me so.”
“Yes. Master.”

Woops.
That was dangerous now.
I almost embraced her unconsciously.
Proper mind. Proper mind.
Worldly desires disappearing, sexual desires suppressed.

“Which reminds me, there is only one bed”

I spoke while touching her ears.
No, wait.
Is such a topic all right?

“Eh?”
“What?”

Just as expected, Roxanne asks again.
That seemed a little different? I wonder what?

“Well. It is master’s order.”
“Eh? Is that so?”
“Yes. You asked for a double room”
“Ah”

Indeed.
Double is one bed, so 2 beds is a Twin?

Certainly when he asked if a double was OK, I nodded.
That innkeeper, he did it on purpose.
Good job.

“You did not know?”

Is this why Roxanne was frightened once we come to the inn?

Well, even if I realized it now, we still have one bed.

“First, there is something I want to say.”
“Yes.”
“Roxanne, listen. I have come from an unbelievably far-away place.”

I straighten my back and tell Roxanne while touching her ears. Skinship is important.
I didn’t tell the truth, but if a lie is found out later it will be troublesome.
Therefore I only told a half-truth.

“When you say it is a far-away place, is it further than Kasshim?”
“I don’t know where Kasshim is, but probably. Roxanne can think of it as further away.”
“Is that so.”

Roxanne ponders on something.
It is further than the place Roxanne thought of.
That is a good expression.

“I was also in the countryside. Since I don’t understand common sense of this place, Roxanne will have to teach me various things like common sense”
“Yes.”
“Even if I may know something like this or that, I’ll be glad if you explain absolutely everything to me.”

Maybe double room and twin room was also common sense on earth.
Maybe I was deceived somehow.

“Later, as you may have heard, Roxanne will enter the Labyrinth with me. That is my intention.”
“Yes. I think I can be useful in battle. Please leave it to me”

When speaking about the Labyrinth, Roxanne looks honest to me.
Those eyes shine mysteriously.

Chapter 30 – Reaction

When I talked about entering the labyrinth, Roxanne's atmosphere changed.
It seems it was due to self-confidence.

It's somehow scary.
As a result of being stared at directly, I stop touching her ears.
Because we are going as a party, I'm grateful that she is confident in combat.

"May I put the clothes in the closet? They may crease."

Because her ears were let go, Roxanne stands up.
Hmmm. Oops, she escaped.

"Yes. Do so."
"Thank you."

Roxanne opens the case she brought from the trading company.
It contains the maid clothes.
Did she bring that?

The maid clothes were bought along with Roxanne.
Because I paid 2800 Nars which was just a fraction, the regular price should be 4000 Nars.
That by itself is a great price.
It was a good purchase.

If I had bought Roxanne independently, the [30% Discount] would not have worked.
I don't know whether the slave trader has [Calc] skill or not. Anyways when buying individual items by itself, the [30% Discount] probably does not work.
Did the sale price turn into 422,000 because the slave trader was selling Roxanne alone for 600,000 Nars and had added 4,000 Nars for the clothes?
The moral of the story is that one shouldn't be too greedy.

Roxanne straightens out the creases and puts the maid clothes in the closet.
Her appearance from behind is also charming.
From behind, it looks like her trembling has stopped.
Yes. She was a good purchase.

In proportion to her chest, Roxanne has a slim figure.
Our height is about the same, but she's a size slimmer.
She really gives the impression of a woman.

"Eh? You were barefooted?"

While undressing Roxanne with my eyes once again, I realize that she was barefoot.

"Yes, I am."

Roxanne replies as if it was a matter of fact.
Did she come barefoot from the trading company?
Maybe being barefoot is not particularly uncommon.

"Can I ask for your cloak?"
"Yes, certainly."

I stand up and give Roxanne my cloak from the table.
While she is putting the cloak in the closet, I pet her head.

It's not necessarily because her trembling has stopped.
It is to confirm.
I just want to confirm how much she feels like letting me do.
I feel like she could have already easily escaped.

My suspicions that getting a slave as beautiful as Roxanne could be a swindle haven't completely been wiped out.

Roxanne obediently lets me stroke her head.
Looking at this behavior, should I conclude that she was already prepared to be sold as a slave?
I don't understand her mind. Even if she doesn't like it, it is not revealed on her face.

I unintentionally embrace her.

No, that's not it. It's a misunderstanding.
It's not like my capacity to endure was only this much.
There is no intention to suddenly push her down.

"Regrettably however, I don't plan to let you get away."
"Aa, Yes ……"

Roxanne gives a quiet answer and relaxes her body.
There is no more concern for fraud.
Perhaps, even if I push her down at this moment, she would be ok with it.

Because I embrace her from the back, my arms are on her chest.
They……are bigger than I thought.
But at the moment, I must endure it. Besides, there are other things that we have to do first.

I almost didn't feel any guilt from buying a slave.
I don't understand. I might have felt something when buying a slave.
Well, there's no need to push myself to feel guilty.

"These leather shoes, ah, not that. These sandals, you can have."

I stretch out my arms and release Roxanne.
My endurance won't last any longer.

"Is that all right?"
"Because we are entering the labyrinth, take the equipment item."

Roxanne doesn't particularly dislike it as I crouch down and touch her foot.
Roxanne's feet are not much different from a human's.
They are not hairy even though she is from the Wolf Beast tribe.

However it is slightly small.
The length from her heel to toes was 2 or 3 sizes shorter.

"Thank you."
"Only if they could be put on properly, but…"
"Yes. Ah, well. They are something like a magic accessory. They stretch and contract to fit the person who equips them. Therefore, it's alright"

Roxanne explains from over my head.
I don't know what she thought about me touching her body, but she didn't show a behavior like that of dislike or of wanting to run away.

It's a good feeling of touching her all over.
Her feet are small and lovely.
The top of her feet was silky smooth.

"I see."
"This is the difference between normal clothes and equipment."

Equipment seems like something very convenient.
If isn't, then everything would need to be custom-made instead of one size fits all.

"Isn't that common sense?"
"Yes. I think most people know it."
"……Errr. Because I lack common sense, please take care of me in the future."
"Yes."

That seems to be common sense in this world.
Well, it seems that way. After all, there are normal villagers wearing equipment.
The explanation is immediately useful.
And, I am thankful to Roxanne for giving me support when needed.

"There are one-handed swords and 2-handed swords. Which do you prefer?"

I stand up and ask Roxanne.

"A one-handed sword please."
"Sure."

I hand over a scimitar to Roxanne from the desk.

Giving her the sword might not be a good idea or maybe that might not be the case.
From the attitude I've seen till now, I judge that it'll be fine to give it.

In a situation where Roxanne is a slave in appearance only and the

slave trader had ulterior motives, I'd be giving weapons to an enemy.
For example, having the freedom to kill me.

I should think carefully about whether or not to.
If I think about it even if Roxanne does not have a sword to use, it would be hard for me to defend myself.
Because we will sleep in the same bed.

Because we are going to the labyrinth, I will have to give her the sword eventually.
Now is the best timing to give her the sword.
Giving it early is a sign to show that I trust Roxanne that much.

If I'm going to be killed, it'll be after losing my virginity. I think I should at least wait till tomorrow to give her the sword, or that's what I feel like doing.
As a person.

"I haven't maintained it, but its condition does not seem to have worsened"

Roxanne is wholeheartedly checking the scimitar despite whether or not knowing my intentions.
She has a serious face.

"Err? Does it need maintenance?"
"Yes"

Um, well that's the case if she says so.

"Other equipments too?"
"Of course."
"Is that so?"

When I think about it, it is so.
I haven't done anything like maintenance.

"Master, from now on I will do the maintenance because one's life depends on the equipment. Please value them more.
"…O-Of course"

Roxanne leans forward and lectures me.

I move back by reflex.

“I will leave it to you.”

Roxanne finishes putting the rest of the luggage that was left on the desk into the closet.

“Well, then come here, try putting on the sandals.”

Having the leather boots in hand, I tell Roxanne to sit on the bed.
I untie the string and remove the sandals to put on the leather boots.

It feels just like it looks. The leather boots is an equipment that is a rank higher than sandals.
Sandals leave a foot half bare so boots should have much greater defense power.
There were no monsters that aimed for the feet and I didn’t want to feel stuffy while I wore the sandals, but it’s safer if Roxanne doesn’t have any better equipment than her master.

“Yes.”
“Err. Here.”

I invite Roxanne who tries to sit on the floor again to sit on bed next to me and give her the sandals.

Roxanne sits next to me and puts on the sandals.
Sandals that should fit my feet somehow fit Roxanne’s small feet exactly.
Magic is amazing.

“Today in the city, while the sun is still up, I want to buy any necessary things. Is there any other equipment that you need?”
“If possible, a wooden shield please.”
“Wooden shield. Anything else?”
“In regards to protection, give me the remains from master’s basic equipment upgrades. For me, handed down things are sufficient.”

We talk while I am touching Roxanne’s ears next to me.
There is no more fear or tension from her like when we entered the room.
The results of skinship.

Skinship is great.

“Understood. What about necessary things other than equipment?”
“Oil for maintenance is needed. Do you have any oil?”
“No, I don’t.”
“Then I would like a small olive oil bottle”

Olive oil?

“Understood.”
“Later I’ll use a rag cloth. Is there any worn out underwear?”
“There isn’t. Just that.”
“It is still new.”

Roxanne put away the laundry. Oops, my pumpkin pants that I bought 5 days ago have been seen.
Son-in-law can’t hold on any longer.
Incidentally, I am wearing trunks at the moment.

“I don’t mind using a towel. Any other necessary things besides that?”
“I would like a water canteen.”
“Water canteen? One moment.”

From the rucksack, I take out a small wooden bucket substituting for a cup.
I take out the medium sized wooden bucket that Roxanne put in the closet.
I take both and run to the toilet.

I return to the room with the small wooden bucket filled with water and give it to Roxanne.

“Thank you.”
“Drink it.”
“Yes, I will.”

Roxanne tastes it.
The water was made with [Water Wall].

It does not have a smell and it tastes like normal water.
There might be something wrong with it, but there shouldn’t be

anything dangerous compared to the water from a river or well water.
I've been drinking for several days and my stomach has not had any problems.

By the way, [Water Ball] had too much force for the bucket to receive.

"Is the water fine?"
"Well, sorry. I did not want water. I wanted a canteen to use in the labyrinth"
"Yeah, I understand. It's ok. You will understand sooner or later."
"Is that so?"

Roxanne who does not know about my magic is persuaded.
Of course, we should have a flask rather than not have one.
However water is rather heavy. When you think about that cost, the convenience of water canteen is rather small.

I sit down on the bed.
For some reason while I was not here, Roxanne had moved down to the floor.
No wonder.
She is being cautious of me pushing her down when sitting on the bed.

"Over here."
"Yes."

I beckon her to my side.

"It's ok. It's not like we'll do something lewd."
"W-Well, but it is master's bed."
"Roxanne will also sleep here."

I embrace her and whisper in a low voice.
Like a terrible evil magistrate.

"……Well, if it's me receiving pity, I'll get in the bed, but I don't mind sleeping on the floor."

Roxanne looks down and mutters such a compromise.

There’s no way I’d think of putting her to sleep on the floor.
What kind of evil magistrate am I?

“Do it right now!” said something screaming inside of me, but I restrain it.
Particularly, now there is no need. It should be fine to enjoy later slowly.

“That is common sense?”
“In the trading company, I heard there were masters like that too.”
“I’m fine with it. It’s cold and troublesome, so we’ll sleep together in the bed.”
“Ye-Yes. Thank you very much.”

While embracing her, I stroke her hair.
She did not avoid or dislike it.
Because she accepted up to this point, now I really think it’s a good thing she is mine.

“After buying another water bucket, is there anything else?”
“I have to hold luggage. That rucksack or something like that.”
“Rucksack? Got it.”
“That’s all for me.”

I am touching her hair while talking.
I touch her ears.
These lop ears are becoming a habit.

“In this city, you can only buy once every 5 days. So it’s possible that we will not be able to buy anything at worst for 5 days. So think about it properly.”
“Yes, it is fine.”
“Shield, olive oil, towel, bucket, rucksack, armor, socks. What else to buy such as these things?”

I am counting while confirming. 7 items.

“Yes.”
“For me, is there soap around here?”

It’s fine. Soap translates fine into the Brahim language.

“Soap? Because soap is very expensive, things like the Koichi fruit bran are normally used, I think.”
“Too expensive? Shampoo … … no, it’s nothing. Koichi fruit it is.”
“Yes.”

Shampoo is not translated.
Well in a world where soap is said to be expensive, there wouldn’t be things like shampoo, rinse, hair treatment or a conditioner.

“Is there something like a tooth brush?”
“Tufted toothpick right. I think a Shukure branch is sold somewhere in the city.”

Tufted toothpick?

“Shield, Olive oil, towel, bucket, rucksack, armor, socks, Koichi fruit, Shukure branch, so 9 items? Need to memorize, so I don’t forget”
“Yes.”
“Then, let’s go shopping.”

I stand up with the rucksack.
I want to keep touching Roxanne forever, but I shouldn’t.
Or rather, I should finish the errands quickly.

I take out the copper sword from item box and carry the rucksack on my back.
There is money in the rucksack.

“Certainly.”

Roxanne stands up at once.

I entrust the key and leave the Inn.
First at the place like a general store I purchase a small wooden bucket, rucksack, small bottle of olive oil, Koichi fruit bran and Shukure branch.
Total sum of 103 Nars.
The Koichi fruit bran is inside something like a scent bag, probably to use it as it is.

2 Shukure branches are 1 Nar. So cheap.
I mean, really, it was just a cut branch of something.

It costs nothing.

I pack the stuff I bought in the rucksack and let Roxanne carry it.

At the next place resembling a cloths shop , I picked up 2 towels.
Roxanne already has hers to use, but purchasing extras are not a problem, right?

“There are at least two pairs of socks. Pick the ones you like.”
“Is it ok for me to choose?”
“Go ahead.”
“But I don’t know your size.”

She didn’t understand.

“No. Roxanne, these socks are for you.”
“For me? Is that ok?”
“It’s fine.”

I nod. Roxanne with an earnest face starts choosing socks.
Because they are sandals, it’s fine to wear them barefoot, but since we’re going into the labyrinth, it’s better if she wears something additional.
Couldn’t any socks be fine? Or I shouldn’t say it.
The socks I chose for myself are a bit too big.

“Are these fine?”
“Yes.”
“Thank you.”

Roxanne gives me the socks she chose.
I show them to the store clerk along with the towels and pay for them.

I put in the goods the rucksack on Roxanne’s back.
Finally we go to armor dealer shop.

In the armor shop, Roxanne’s facial expression has become even fiercer compared to a little while ago.
So serious for 1 shield. Her expression has become otherworldly.
Well, that’s because she will entrust her life to it.

Wooden shield: shield
Skill: empty

However, if possible, I would like to choose one with an empty skill slot.
How do I recommend it to her?
I would like to ask Roxanne about empty slots, but it's better not to do it in public.
I place three shields I have found with empty slots.

"These 3 are good items"
"Can you tell them apart?"
"Yea."

To Roxanne's words, I reply with a nod with an appearance of confidence.
All equipment are all one-size-fits-all. That's why they are all the same I think.

Roxanne starts comparing the 3 that I gave to her.
Although a beauty, she gives off an intimidating feeling.
W-with wrinkles between the eyebrows.

I moved away as Roxanne is scary.
I went to the armor display.

"How much is leather armor?"
"It is 800 Nars."

I think it's somewhat expensive.
It cost that much?
I think it would have been a good thing if I had not sold the equipment from the thieves who attacked the village. It can't be helped now.
At that time, I didn't have [Item Box].

"This leather jacket?"
"It is 1,000 Nars."

Buying back what I sold once feels like a loss.
I take and carry the leather jacket and leather gloves with empty slots. I walk over to the headpiece area.

Because I got body, hands and leg equipment, only the headgear remains.

Leather Cap: Head equipment
Skill: empty

Another leather series. Maybe this leather cap is handy.
Appearance-wise, it has a feeling of something a bicycle racer would use as a helmet.
It feels like it won't completely fit on my head.

"Master, this wooden shield."

Roxanne, after choosing the wooden shield, brings it.

"Would it be better together with a leather cap?"

I place the leather cap on Roxanne's head and ask her.
Somehow it mysteriously fits. Magic is amazing.

"Of course."

The cap hides her dog ears completely.
Certainly, it would be necessary without saying it.
It would be terrible if something happened to those cute lop ears.

"Then, these. 5 in all"

I take another leather hat with skill slot and show it to the armor merchant.

"Thank you very much. As a special service, it'll be only 938 Nars."

I pay for them and put them in the item box.

Roxanne looks at me suspiciously for some reason.
I turn to the side so that the armor merchant could not hear and mumble some incomprehensible muttering plus [Item Box]. Instead it seems like Roxanne who was right beside me heard it.
Chanting a spell is troublesome and embarrassing, so I avoid doing it. Should I do it properly?

"This is everything. Shall we return?"
"Yes."

Roxanne did not say anything in front of the armor merchant.
Even if she thought it was odd, it seems she considered not to ask about it in public.

On the way back, I can see in her eyes that Roxanne wants to say something.
It might be troublesome.

In front of the hotel on way back, there was a clothes shop.
The clothes shop displays expensive cloaks.
Even if they were expensive, because they were necessary, they are not unaffordable.

“If it rains, it will be troublesome, so you should have a cloak. You can buy one that you like.”

I unintentionally change the subject.
She will eventually find out. It shouldn’t be a problem if Roxanne knows.

“Is it all right?”
“Yea.”
“Thank you.”

Roxanne joyfully bows her head.

Chapter 31 – Enjoyment

Long time ago, my mother took me to a boutique in Hiroo, Akasaka.
I don't remember much about places from the past, but it was a luxurious shop in the 2nd or 3rd floor of a building.
I remember you could see the cars going past the expressway from that shop.
In a very clear day, you'd see the sparkling reflection of the sunlight on the cars.

Why was I watching the cars? That's because I had nothing to do.
A boy following his mother for shopping would hardly find anything fun to do.
Probably, I didn't complain or make a fuss then.

My mother only took me once to that boutique.
She learned her lesson from that single time.
That I didn't enjoy going shopping.

I don't know what she expected from having me accompany her that day.
It couldn't be that she expected to have fun shopping after bringing a child.

I no longer hold any duty towards my dead mother.
What should I have done back then?
Should I have enjoyed going shopping with her?

Ever since that time, I learned women like shopping.
And there was no chance to experience it first-hand until today.

Roxanne who was told to buy a cloak she liked joyfully browses the goods.
Every cloak in the store is being checked out.
I should say, literally, every single one is being checked!

Starting from the left, one by one the cloaks on the stand were taken out and checked for fine details.
They were spread for review. She held them against her arms while

thinking if it looks good or not; the collars, the hems, and every small detail was checked.
There were no exceptions.
Even that reddish brown one that at a glance was no good was spread out and examined.

Ah, she folds it.
As expected, it was no good after all.

That one, obviously the color was odd.
“Don’t check them one by one!”
It was one of many things I wanted to say, but of course I refrain from doing so.

The merchant attending the store didn’t say anything either.
He didn’t want to say anything awkward.
In Roxanne’s case, even if he asked “What are you looking for?”, she would have answered with “Show me everything”.
Oh, seems he’s saying something.

“I can recommend this one here.”
“…Hmm.”

The ship sank.
Seems, she wasn’t interested in the cloak the merchant showed.
Just now the merchant recommends one that is slightly pricy and remains unsold.
Well done, Roxanne.
For buying a cloak, let’s do it properly.

The merchant, dejected, moved to attend to another customer.
I told her to buy one she likes, but I’d have been happy if she picked and bought one already.

I just stare as Roxanne checks out every cloak.
I don’t remember nor am I aware of any blunders committed towards my mother, but I won’t repeat the same mistakes.
I watch over without uttering any complain.

She’s beautiful and cute. Just by watching her, time flies.
And the result? She asks me “How’s this one?” with the last cloak.

Umm. That question is taboo for someone like me without any fashion sense.
I desperately think of something suitable and let out an evasive “That one is good too”.
I think it’s because I was pleased with the one she showed me, there’s no way to deny it.
That much I know.
Or rather, that much I didn’t know.

After reviewing every single cloak in the shop, Roxanne narrows it down to two choices.
A cloak she held on her left arm since halfway into the selection and the last one chosen.
Both are a similar crimson color.

“Which one do you think is better?”

After thoroughly comparing both, Roxanne turns around.
The cloaks are hanging from both arms.

Probably, if she’s asking me, Roxanne already has in mind an answer with a ratio of 6 to 4.
If I choose, we’ll be done.

If I choose poorly, all efforts will come to nothing.
I understand that proposing the cheap one or such is stepping on a land mine
But, I think the cheap one is good.

The one hanging from her left arm, she’s been holding it all this time.
She’s keeping it because she likes it.
If that is a hint, then it is the correct answer.

Back then, because I was looking at the expressway, I didn’t get the hint.
That’s not the case today.

“This one has a comfortably chic and nice, graceful, calming shade”

With confidence, I recommend the one on her left arm.
The reason is appropriate.
What followed was clear.

Or rather, should I say relaxing shade?
I don't really know what I'm saying.
I say the words without being sweet, mean, or delicacy.

"Is that so? This one, the stitching looks good, but I think the color is a bit too heavy"
"U-Uh huh"

Oh no.
Seems, the color on the other one is better.

"But really, now that you mention it, it's got a good calming color. I understand. Is this one ok?"
"I see. Do you need anything else?"

Somehow she was in agreement.
I receive the cloak from Roxanne.

"No. Well, buying anything more is too much"
"Since we're here, why not buy something else?
"But…"
"You don't need to be reserved. After all, today is a day to celebrate."

I whisper close to her face.
To celebrate the day I bought Roxanne.
More precisely, if I don't buy two items, the [30% discount] won't work!

"Errr… well then, is it ok if I buy underwear too?"
"It's ok."
"I see. Thank you."

With a nod, Roxanne starts choosing some garments.
They're the pumpkin pants I bought before.
They seem to have no distinction for men and women.
They don't have any sex appeal.

Although, it obviously does not have any sex appeal to a modern person.
Unlike the cloak, Roxanne chooses it without unfolding it.
There might be some embarrassment since it's underwear.

“Is only one ok?”

I ask Roxanne who chose relatively quickly without checking.
The case she brought from the Slave Trading company only had a maid uniform in it.
She really doesn’t have any personal belongings.

“Eh. Ah, err, but”
“Go buy another piece. How much is it for the three?”

I said that in his absence, so I call for the salesperson.

“Th…thank you”
“Thank you. Three pieces, right, seems you really liked that cloak. That will be 2856 Nars.”

We bought three items, including another set of pumpkin pants of the same color that Roxanne took.
After paying, Roxanne held to the cloak and put the underwear in the rucksack on her back.

“Shall we return to the inn?”
“Yes”

And the day was coming to an end.
We didn’t buy much, but it took a very long time.
I should be prepared for the time it takes to do any shopping.

“Heya, welcome back.”

We return to the Vale Pavilion Inn and pick up the key.

“First we’ll return to our room and drop our luggage. After that, dinner. After finishing the meal, I want to request two hot waters and a lantern.”
“Two hot waters and one lantern, isn’t it? It’ll be 35 Nars, ok?”

After paying the fee, we go up the stairs to the 5th floor to our room.
Roxanne carefully put the cloak in the closet once we enter the room.

“Thank you very much.”
“It’s ok, it’s ok.”

For me, I'm glad I didn't run away while in the middle of shopping.
I approach Roxanne while she was putting down the rucksack and pet her head.

Yeah. She doesn't seem to dislike it.
Until now, she hasn't been frightened either.

"While there's some sunlight, I'll do some maintenance. Please bring out the equipment."

Roxanne told me while I was petting her.

"We spent all day shopping. It's all right."
"That's not good."

Roxanne suddenly glares at me.
Such powerful eyes.

"Tha…that's right. That's to be expected"

Maintenance is so troublesome.
Roxanne takes out a little bottle of olive oil.

"E-errr…"

Roxanne turns around to face me, looking down with hesitation.
Suddenly again, the atmosphere returns to its original state.

"What?"
"Since you bought me some underwear, the ones I'm wearing, I want to use them as cloth scraps for maintenance."
"Yes. That should be ok."
"…Master, please go eat dinner first"
"Dinner first, but should I go or not?"

It'll turn dark once we finish dinner.
Maintenance should come first before the meal.
The oil in the lantern will only last one hour.
If possible, I'd rather enjoy some tender love under the lamp light.

"But…"
"It's okay. Let's go down together to eat."
"Is it all right? I think the dining room in the inn is expensive. I can go

alone to eat somewhere cheap."

Is she being reserved, or is it unpleasant for us to eat together?

"The dinner fee is already paid for. Are you displeased for us to eat together?"
"Displeased? Not at all!"
"Then, in that case…"

I put down the copper sword on the desk.

"…T-then, well, if you'll excuse me"

Roxanne suddenly starts to take off her trousers.
I was thinking about what she was doing. That's right.
Since Roxanne will do maintenance, she'll use her underwear for repairs. If that's the case, she'll have to take her clothes off.

"Ah, sorry. Don't mind me."

I lightly waved my hand.
Actually I do mind! Mind my feelings.

I'll be able to watch a beautiful sight.
Because of the oversize tunic, I wasn't able to see much.
I was able to peek at her cute bottom, but the part I wanted to see the most…
It's not like I'm watching it from a front row seat.

Ah, A tail. The tail.
Once Roxanne turns away, I could see her tail clearly.
Fluffy fur, the same chestnut color as her hair.
As expected, she has a tail.
I'll get to touch it later.

Roxanne quickly finishes changing her clothes.
It really took just an instant.
I want to see it for longer, but there's no helping it. I can't complain.

Once Roxanne sits on the chair, her expression turns serious.
With an almost scary face, she starts servicing the equipment.
With a little oil dabbed onto a cloth, she polishes.

“If you maintain them like this, you’ll keep them just like new.”
“If you don’t maintain them, will their performance drop?”
“If the user doesn’t feel comfortable with it, they can’t perform at their best.”

I see. It’s a problem of feeling.
It should be okay if I don’t service Durandal today.

After the maintenance, we go down to the dinner room. We have our meal together.
Besides Roxanne sitting on the floor instead of both of us facing each other at a table for two, we finish the dinner without incident.

Just as we finished eating, the sun goes down.
Once we return to our room, the innkeeper brings the hot water, fire and lantern.
After the man put everything down, he leaves.

“Would you wash my back?”

Since the two of us were left alone, I start to get into action.
Calmly, yet boldly.
If I show embarrassment, Roxanne might get nervous too.

First, I undress.
I also throw off my trunks.
All humans were born into the world naked.
I place the lantern on the desk, and pull the tub to the center of the room.

“Yes, master.”

With a towel, Roxanne wipes my naked back from behind me.
So far, I’ve been successful.
Before, I’d washed myself with a towel soaked with hot water.

“Can you use this?”

I take out the small bag of Koichi fruit I bought and show it to Roxanne.
Because I turn around, my dangly thing said hi to Roxanne.
No, there should be no problem. Probably.

“I don’t think I’ve washed anyone’s body.”

Even though Roxanne must have seen it, there wasn’t a big reaction from her.
It kinda felt lonely down there.

My son is also energetic.
When I went to the restroom before, it accidentally discharged.

“Hmm, is that so?”
“We’re almost done washing your body.”
“About entering a… bathtub.”

Okay, it got translated.

“Only if it’s nobility or royalty”

It seems to be difficult.
As for me, I can use fire and water magic. I might be able to make a bath soon enough.

“How do you use this?”
“If you don’t put it near water…”

I show her the Shukure branches next.
There should be water to rinse your mouth.
That can be done tomorrow.

After drying, I put on my pumpkin pants.

“Then, Roxanne, you’re next.”

As calmly as possible, I casually tell her.
As if it is normal. It is just taking turns.

“…Y-yes.”
“Yeah.”

Roxanne answers in a whisper.
The tunic hangs from her hand.

As expected, I didn’t get to see. Facing the tub, I wring the towel.

“E-errr… I’m from the Wolf Beast tribe and I might be a bit hairy. I’m

sorry.”
“Oh, really?”

Saying those words, Roxanne turns around.
Right as Roxanne is taking off her tunic.

In the dim light of the lantern, Roxanne’s fantastic body is revealed.
In the space between her clothes and arms, there are those violent breasts.

Th-those are destructive.
They’re real projectile weapons. It’s foul play.

Spilling out from Roxanne’s front were those ultimate weapons.
So big.
And they look so soft.
Here are the ultimate weapons that can make whoever looks at them happy.

“Actually, my back…”

Roxanne, hiding her chest from my sight, twists her back towards me.
There’s no need to hide anything. That’s a shame.

When I see Roxanne’s back, her whole back is covered in hair…
What? It isn’t hair, is it fur?

While holding the towel, I come closer. She had fur growing from her back.
Though the fur reaches to her lower back, it comes out from her torso.
It didn’t extend from her hair.

Unlike the look of a woman with long hair hanging down her back, from her neck down to her lower back, it’s all covered in fur.
All the way down to her lower back. It was very short.
If I had to say, it resembles that kind of hairstyle.

Roxanne takes off her trousers and underwear.
Where the fur ends, her tail stretches out.
Even though her tail is covered in fur, her ass doesn’t have any.

Her butt is smooth and looks delicious.

I caress the fur on Roxanne's back with my right hand which wasn't holding the towel.
The fur is graceful and soft. It reacts gently to my touch.

"It's soft and fluffy, I love it."
"T-thank you."

I wash the fur on her back with the towel.
Following her body lines; from top to bottom.

"Yea, no problems."
"E-errr. For master to wash me…"
"It's okay. It's faster this way."

Peering through her back, I can see a pair of huge mountains on her chest.
The holy summit, two sacred mountains.

For Roxanne who is wiping herself with the towel, it's impossible to cover herself all the time.

I want to worship.
No, they'll be worshipped.

Hail, Roxanne.
Viva, Roxanne.

It's not enough just to pay respect.
I must revere them.
As if embracing her from behind, I position my hands.
While ascertaining her prominence, I purify those sacred bulges.

"Ah…"
"What?"
"N-nothing…"

Roxanne, who looks like she wanted to say something, keeps quiet.

The Divine Mount Fujis bounce back in reaction.
It is wonderful.
Certainly they have a massive and heavy sensation. I carefully polish

them.
There is no part overlooked. I gently wipe to purify the hills completely.
Slowly, carefully and diligently.

So soft.
Even over the towel, I can feel their weight and they are satisfyingly bouncy.
So large.
So much volume they can't fit in my palms.

"The best!"
"…"

Obviously, I take plenty of time to wipe Roxanne. That's not a problem at all.
In any case, it's too magnificent.
So much so that anyone entering wouldn't want to come out.

I spend enough time wiping to clean her and finally release Roxanne.

"Uh, Can I wipe your tail too?"
"Yes. Ah, no, I can do it myself."
"It's okay, let me."

Instinctively I switch to the next thing to hide the fact that I took quite a lot of time.
I wipe Roxanne's tail.
Her tail is a big bundle of fur.
As if it didn't have a core and was just a lump of fur. It was like the tip of a brush.

I can't get enough of the fluffy feeling of her dog ears. Also, all of the bushy fur of her tail is just as good.
It gently gets coiled around my arm, yet I feel this silky smooth texture.

"T…thank you"
"Your tail, can you move it?"
"It's difficult, if I don't do it this way"

While saying that, Roxanne shakes her hips.

Her tail swings side to side.
No. She isn't moving her tail. It's clear that she's moving her hips.
Roxanne sways her hips enthusiastically.

From my point of view, it is sexy.
Even without my point of view, is it still sexy?
I got to see something good.

"Hmmm. I see."
"Also, when I'm happy, I unconsciously wag my tail."
"Is that so? Then, I will be sure to make Roxanne's tail move as much as possible."

I whisper into Roxanne's ears.
Even though I say ears, they aren't like normal ears on each side of the head.

"Y-yes… Errr, please treat me well."

Ah. She wagged her tail a bit.

After that, I wipe her lovely bum and her graceful feet.
These perks!

"Well then. Let's do some experiment."
"Experiment?"
"Yeah, crouch on the bed and put your head out this way"

I instruct Roxanne.
I test if I can wash her head like that.

I wanted to try it previously.
Since there's no mirror, I couldn't be sure, but I can guess my hair is all oily and sticky now.
After all, I haven't washed my hair in more than ten days.
There's a limit to only using a wet towel.
It might be the common thing in this world, but it is still unpleasant anyways.

I lift the tub and put it on the chair.
The tub is a bit higher compared to the bed. It'll be difficult holding your head up.

“Is this all right?”
“Hold your head over the tub.”
“Okay.”

Roxanne holds her head over the tub.
I scoop hot water and pour it on Roxanne’s head.
I massage and wash her hair with my bare fingers.
I repeat it many times pouring hot water.
I pour more hot water on her ears, and carefully wash them.

“Now then, lift your head.”

After washing it all generally, I put a dry towel on her head.
I dry her head with some pressure on the towel.
With somewhat rough strokes, I wipe all the water.

“Thank you.”
“Right. With the two of us, we can wash our hair”
“Shall I wash master’s hair?”
“Yes, please.”

I place the towel on Roxanne’s shoulder and we change places.

“Should I change the tub?”
“No, that’s okay. The other one, I’ll use to wash our socks and clothes”

I put my head in the tub and had it washed.
My hair is massaged and washed by Roxanne’s slender fingers.
It feels good.

Even though I was soaked with hot water, I feel refreshed.
I am being dried with the towel.
Once I open my eyes, I am welcomed by the paradise.

Roxanne, who was only wearing a pair of pumpkin pants, shows her front to me while drying my hair.
Both arms are stretched out over my head.
By doing so her breasts were, were, were totally defenseless.

“Then I’ll do the laundry.”

I don’t know if Roxanne realized my gaze, but she immediately moves away.
Too bad.

No.
Roxanne squats beside the tub half naked and is washing our socks.
While doing so, her breast shaking matched her movements.
Pa-Paradise!

“You won’t use Koichi fruit?”
“That’s used for cloaks and favorite outer garments. If used with those that need to be washed daily, they’ll wear out in no time.
“Is that so?”

I am told while lowering the tub from the chair.
I went to the trouble of buying it, but it’s pretty useless.

“This is somehow amazing!”

After the socks, my trunks are washed next and Roxanne is fixated with the elastic band.
She is pulling it with her hands and looks like she is having fun.

“You don’t have those here?”
“Never seen this kind of thing.”
“Really?”

It seems elastic bands are unusual.
Is tying the clothes with strings like the pumpkin pants the common thing?

Roxanne put the laundry in the closet to air out.
Is all the work finally done?

“Well, I’ll put my clothes on.”

Roxanne takes out her maid uniform.

“Ah, you don’t need to wear that.”
“Eh, but…”
“Did they tell you something at the slave market?”
“That you’d be delighted if I wore these.”

Did the slave trader teach something to Roxanne?
Surely I'd be delighted. I'd be delighted but…

"It's okay if you don't wear those."
"Ok…"

Roxanne gives a little nod and puts back the maid uniform into the closet.
And, silently comes closer to the bed.

Once she comes close, I grab her hand and pull her into the bed.
I embrace Roxanne who falls into the bed.

She remains still like that.
While holding her with both hands, those huge bulges are squeezed between our chests.
When I bring her face closer, Roxanne closes her eyes as if she was ready.
I kiss her lips.

Touching those soft lips.
For a while, I keep my mouth pressed against hers.
I want to be more forceful, but I control myself.
I hear it's not good if put your tongue from the very beginning.

"From now on, we'll greet each other by kissing just before bed and when waking up in the morning."
"…Yes."
"Then once more."

I let loose and indulge myself.
This time, I try to be more forceful.
I slip my tongue in.
Roxanne seems to accept it honestly.

Our tongues entwine.
While savoring Roxanne's tongue, I take off my pumpkin pants.
And after, with my hand, I take Roxanne's pants.

Chapter 32 - Morning Business

Roxanne seemed to be getting into the mood and kissed me full on the lips.
She whispered into my ear.

“Close your eyes for a minute.”

I closed them, and heard her rustling through her things for a short while.

“You can open them now.”

I opened my eyes to find Roxanne wearing a black leather outfit, holding a whip, and equipped with a rather large strap-on.
My conscience began to fade from shock as Roxanne leaned in to speak.

“The slave trader sends his regards.”

When I came to, I was hugging Roxanne like a body pillow.
Roxanne slept to my left and I was clinging to her with both hands and my right leg.

Pretty nice way to wake up.
How to put it, a pleasant awakening or being greeted with a pleasant sight after waking up.

Roxanne’s smooth skin feels great.
It is soft and tender to the touch.
Being held by her also feels great.
A feeling of joy permeated into me from the areas in contact with her.
Although my left hand had found it’s way under Roxanne, she wasn’t that heavy and my arm wasn’t numb either.

Lightly hugging her, I stroked her back.
I enjoyed feeling her soft hair.

Both me and Roxanne have nothing on except pumpkin underwear.

Isn’t there stuff like bra’s? Even if there are, they’re probably pretty expensive.
On my left arm there was a weight with definite elasticity.

Suddenly, my lips were covered.
Roxanne kissed me.

She must have surmised my being awake from the movement of my hands.
Which reminds me, I had told her to do something to that effect.
Was she faithfully carrying out my orders?
Being her master’s order, she may have been carrying it out since it couldn’t be helped.

“Good morning, Master.”

Upon releasing her mouth, after enjoying her soft lips and tongue for a while, Roxanne greeted me.

“Thank you. Morning, Roxanne”

I opened my eyes, but could not see Roxanne’s beautiful face.
It’s still dark.
Relying on my senses only, I took her lips again.
I made do somehow despite the visual impairment.

I inserted my tongue in the gap between Roxanne’s lips.
I moved it around invitingly at ease and entangled Roxanne’s tongue with my own.
Roxanne responded, though not quite as passionate.

Should be fine to assume that she doesn’t dislike it.
Or she might’ve just put it off as inevitable.
At least it isn’t disliked to the extent of runnning away.

Though I want to push her down this instant, I’ll endure with a kiss.
Since I held back to a single round yesterday, I’m pretty vigorous.

But these past 10 days, without fail, I visited the labyrinth.
If I don’t go out today, it’ll be pretty much exposed to the inkeeper as to the fun I was having last night.
Though it was pretty much exposed from the instant I asked for a

double room.
While kissing her, I took my palm to her head and started stroking it.

After enjoying the feeling of sliding my hand through her velvety hair, I released her mouth.

“Let’s go to the labyrinth for a bit.”
“Yes, Master.”

I reluctantly let go of Roxanne and raised my upper body.
In any case we’ll be having fun tonight anyways. Tonight, tomorrow and the day after that.
So long as Roxanne dosen’t run away, that is.

While sitting down and putting on my shoes, Roxanne put on my shirt for me.
Woah. This gives a pretty good feeling.
Sorta sets a kingly mood.

“Sorry for the trouble.”

“Please, there’s nothing of that sort.”
Is she not used to it? Her actions seem pretty awkward.
She hit my arm.
Rather than awkward, isn’t it because the room is pitch dark?

“Will you be fine in the dark?”
“My apologies. My night vision isn’t that great.”
“No need to overdo it.”

I was given my trousers. I’ll put them on myself afterwards.
I took out and equipped the leather jacket from the item box.

Leather Jacket : Body Armor
Skill: Empty

“By the way, do you know what an empty slot is?”

It’s been on my mind. Since this is a good opportunity I might as well ask.
Uh, did I just involuntarily mention empty slots?

“What are you referring to, Master?”

“Un. It’s about the empty skill slots of my current equipment.”
“Equipment, is it? Of course there are gaps and spaces.”

That’s a typical definition of a slot.

“Equipment can have skills.”

“There are empty spaces that can have them.”
“I’m sorry. I don’t really get it. If there isn’t a skill, dosen’t it mean there’s nothing there?”

Looks like she doesn’t understand.
The weapons merchant didn’t know about them either.
Typically, empty slots are not known of.

“How is a skill attached to equipment?”
“Well, it is common to buy the skill along with the quipment.”
“Not to buy it and attach it oneself.”

I take the leather armour from the box.
I want to pass the armor to Roxanne, but I don’t know where and what Roxanne is doing as it is dark.
Roxanne might be changing clothes.

“Only a blacksmith master can fuse the monster card.”

Seems the job of a Blacksmith master is necessary.
The herbalist job is required to make an antidote. The same sort of thing.

“The monster card is?”
“It is something like an intelligence card which a monster has. When it is fused with equipment, a skill is created. It will rarely remain after defeating a monster.”

Oh, so that’s how it is.
I can imagine it happening.

“If there is no vacant skill slot, the card is not able to fuse.”
“Whether or not the skill attaches to the equipment depends on the monster card’s status, the skill of the blacksmith master and luck.”
“I see. They also occasionally fail?”

“It is said the probablity of failure is larger.”

I don’t understand. If there are no empty slots on an equipment, does the skill stick?
I who can use appraisal will have a large advtange in that case.
I can perform fusion without failure.

“Do you know how I could become a blacksmit master?”
“I’m very sorry. I do not know. As Blacksmith master is a race-specific job, as I’m not a dwarf, I’m unfamiliar with it.”

Darn!
And, there is a dwarf race after all?
Though I have not yet met one.

Or am I able to get the Blacksmith master job through some alternative method?
If it’s a race-specific job, will it be difficult?
When it is a requirement to be a dwarf, it seems difficult to acheive.

“Is that so? Then, there’s no choice but to ask a blacksmith master to fuse the skills to the equipment?”
“A blacksmith master dislikes direct transactions and is not very friendly. Do you have an acquantaince who is a blacksmith master?”
“Is it impossible?”
“The monster card is destroyed when an attempt to use it fails, so most blacksmith masters will not work directly with customers. Even if there is a blacksmith master like that it won’t be certain if you can trust them.

I asked why, and understood.
When a monster card dissappears, they don’t know whether or not it’s a failed fusion or that the blacksmith master is a fraud who cheated them.
When the blacksmith mentor receives a request, he can hide the monster card somewhere and pretend it was a failure.
The client is told it failed, then they fuse the monster card later with another equipment to sell it. A clear profit.

“Is the fusion of a monster card the source of problems?”
“Yes.”

“Even if the event is witnessed, it’s useless?”
“In the old days, there seems to have been a dwarf who made his assets with the slogan of having the clientss watch before.”
“I see.”

If it is fraud, any method is imaginable.
After all, when a magician cheats at cards, it’s impossible to catch them. I see.

“So there are no cases that fusion with a monster card is requested from a blacksmith master at first. A blacksmith teacher wouldn’t have direct deals, either. You’ll look for a place to sell a monster card, and equipment with a skill will be bought elsewhere.”

Not being able to directly interact will cause doubt and suspicion.

As it is a race-specific job, I won’t be able to take it. As I don’t have the chance for direct deals either, it is troublesome.
Even if I understand that there is an empty slot from appraisal, it is of no use.
Is the appraisal of equipment a useless skill?
Because appraisal has been severely useful in seeing the job of thieves and monsters, It is not something I can complain about.

Is blacksmith master something I could acquire? Evem though it’s race specific?
There’s another possibility that has potential.
Do I add a blacksmith master to the party?
Though, if it’s a regular party member then that won’t prevent being cheated.

“A blacksmith Master….” (Tl: Said as an object of desire.)

I try to ask whether it’s possible to add one as a slave, but then stopped.
It may not be a good idea to ask Roxanne.
For a slave, it may be better to ask the slave merchant.
Do I try to visit after money is accumulated to some degree?

I used my intuition in the dark and moved to the door.

“Is it okay to open the door?”

“Yes. It is alright.”

I wait for an answer, then open the door.
The light from the hall lantern enters the room.
It’s dim, but I can make out the room.

“Roxanne, use this leather armor.”
“Ok, Thank you very much.”

I take out some socks and leather shoes to wear.

There is a tub on the floor.
After the activities last night, and rinsing afterwards, there might be some red mixed into the water.
If I leave it as is, when the people of the inn come to clean today they might find out about the enjoyment last night.

I float the wooden cup on the water, and then picked up the tub in both hands and took it to the rest room to empty.
Afterwards I re-filled both with fresh water.

“Roxanne, do you want some water?”
“Oh, yes, thank you.”
Back in the room, I pass the wooden cup to Roxanne.
The lantern from the passage way lights up Roxanne a bit.

Roxanne was wearing the leather armor.
It’s equipment, so it will change shape to fit the person wearing it.
So…. to fit Roxanne….
It’s appearance has become similar to a corset.

The cup size of the chest is huge.
Of course that’s because of Roxanne.

Is this alright?
It’s not alright.

“Here, try wearing this jacket.”
“I’m sorry, Leather armor on it’s own is difficult for women to wear.”

Roxanne apologized.
It seems I did something strange.

Was she afraid to point it out because I am he master?

“No, I’m the one at fault. There’s a lot of common sense that I don’t know, so please teach me.”

I exchange Roxanne’s equipment.
The jacket is fine and doesn’t really show off her figure too much.
Other people don’t need to see that appearance, and if I get excited in the Labyrinth that might be a problem.

“Oh, I didn’t think there were any water jars, where did the water come from?”
“I’ll explain it properly later.”
“Ok.”

I closed the door.
It wouldn’t be good if I’m heard by someone.

“Without using an ointment, is there a skill or magic that can recover health?”

I ask Roxanne.
While in the Labyrinth, I need to think of ways of recovering from attacks.

If it’s just me, it’s alright to recover using Durandal’s HP Absorption.
With Roxanne, I might be able pass her Durandal sometimes to allow her to recover as well.

However, that won’t be good in the long term.
It will cause problems if we only rely on Durandal.
For example, it would be difficult to pass it back and forth during a battle.
We might not have the chance to wait for the next battle before one of us can recover.

It also costs a bit to use ointment.
It would be good to get a recovery job.

“Yes, the jobs of monks and priests can do it.

Thankfully it seems there are recovery jobs.

“Do you know how to become one?”
“Well, I’ve heard they undergo severe training.”
“Oh?”

Training?
I can’t work it out from just that.

“They train in their guilds in various ways, and I hear a waterfall is used.”
“A waterfall.”
“Also, to travel around all 88 guilds on foot.”
“A pilgrimage.”

Roxanne disregards me muttering “Pilgrimage.”
If there is a waterfall, it might be for mental training.
Priests and Monks are religious jobs, and might require some religious experience.
Maybe meditation, or some mystery experience is needed to get a recovery job.

It might be quite difficult.
If it’s some mystery experience, then it’s impossible.
Is even spiritual concentration possible?
“……”

For the time being, I prayed in various ways.
Even though I tried it, I did not get a new job.

“Strength of mind…”

I don’t know what else to try.
I need some kind of guide.
I just don’t know.

“……”

I don’t have a clue.
Crap.
Is this how far I can get with my knowledge?

Come Roxanne, lets be sad about it together.

“Has God forsaken me?”

Chapter 33 - Job

I recite many incantations, but I wasn't able to acquire the healer job.

If I think about it, it is obvious.
If it is so simple to acquire, there wouldn't be any need for training in the first place.
Even if they're called incantations, they sound just like abracadabra.

However, in this world, skills and magic can make things happen.
If they are a simple abracadabra, it would be impossible.
There might be a spell required in order to gain the job.
Isn't there any other way?

"Come to think of it, in order to become a monk, people train to defeat demons barehanded. If that's the case, I think I could be able to do such a thing too."

Roxanne gives me a hint while I was troubled.
I think Roxanne should have told me sooner, but I didn't say anything.
Is there something I can do too?

"Defeat demons barehanded"… what?!
Roxanne is frankly a very scary girl, isn't she?

However, defeating a demon barehanded is a possibility.
A swordsman job is probably acquired by fighting with a sword.
If it's possible to acquire the swordsman job by fighting with a sword, then there would be a job that can be acquired by fighting unarmed.

So, a monk fights barehanded?
Or if monk is not possible, maybe there's a job similar to a bare-fisted fighter.
There's some value in experimenting.

There are many questions

For a fight, is hitting once enough? Or is defeating it necessary?
As for defeating, do you have to do it from the start? Or is delivering the last blow enough?
If it's from the start, do you need to fight alone? Or is it okay engaging with a party?
For now, there's no other choice but to try.

I open the door to the room.
The wooden cup that Roxanne returned I put in the rucksack which I put on my back.
I finish by hanging the copper sword from my waist.

Ah. We haven't formed a party.
I cast [Party Formation].

"Forming a party, how do I do it?"
"Let's see. If I'm not mistaken, I think it's an Explorer's skill."
"Well, that is so, but…"

I was really talking to myself, but Roxanne replies.
In my mind, I add Roxanne to the party.

"Ah."

Roxanne says in a low voice.
Oh. Seems it's done.
Even I know that I had added Roxanne to the party.

Am I added to this party by default?
I tried to add myself to the party, but nothing happens.
Well, after all, it's a party I formed.
I'm uneasy, but for the time being, it should be alright.
It's right to think that because I am a party member, I knew Roxanne was in the party.

"What are the effects of a party?"
"If travel magic is applied to the party, everyone will move together. Even if one loses sight of a party member, one will still know the general direction of them. Also, I've been told the experience is shared."
"It is shared?!"

Is the experience acquired equally distributed?

“When a noble’s child is born, the baby is put in a six member party and the five retainers enter a labyrinth. Due to the five people’s acquired experience, the baby also grows.”

Cheating as expected of dirty nobles.

“Eh? If so, even if you become an adult, one doesn’t necessarily have ever entered a labyrinth then?”
“There are people that make proper use of these vassal groups. However, about people never entering, really…”

Well, is that so. If one doesn’t enter labyrinths, then for what purpose do they level up for?

“About a group of vassals entering, is it possible for one to live from that?”
“Err. Ah… That…”
“Ah… No. I’m not thinking of making Roxanne enter the labyrinth alone.”

As I said that, I realize the reason.

Is there a means to live in comfort with the earnings from making slaves enter the labyrinth?
Well, but that seems pretty troublesome.
You’d be irresponsibly avoiding all work.

“It could be used when one raises their Explorer level, but such talk is pretty rare. Sometimes people at a site where something valuable is discovered in the labyrinth will be disposed of. That’s why, when sending someone to the labyrinth…”

Looks unreasonable.

“I see. Then, shall we go?”
“Yes.”

We go out the room.

Lock it and go down the stairs.
Like always, I entrust the key to the innkeeper.

As usual. Like always.

“Take care.”

We go out.
Like usual, it was pitch black.

“Then, follow me for a bit”

Just to be sure, I take Roxanne’s hand.
I faced the Inn’s wall and cast [Warp].
Like that, we enter.

“Ah? S-say.”

I pulled Roxanne’s hand and came out the labyrinth’s first floor.
Roxanne appears right away.

“It seems to be alright.”
“Eh? Eh? Eh? This is the labyrinth?”

Roxanne seems to be a bit confused.
But, from looking at the surroundings and understanding it was inside a labyrinth, soon her facial expression sharpens.
It is a serious look.
She showed the same look when talking about the labyrinth at the inn. Her facial expression is a bit scary.

“It is the first floor of the labyrinth just outside Vale town”
“But, you can’t use [Dungeon Walk] unless you’re inside a labyrinth… And what’s more, if it’s [Field Walk], you could use it from that place, but couldn’t enter directly into the labyrinth.”

I see.
[Field Walk] can’t transfer you into a labyrinth.

Well, that might be so.
If that wasn’t, there wouldn’t be any reason for an Explorer and Adventurer to share the same party. Rather than bother coming out of the adventurer’s guild wall, transferring directly into the labyrinth is faster.

“As expected, that is the case.”

“In the first place, because Master is an Explorer, you couldn’t be able to use [Field Walk].”

Since Roxanne read my intelligence card, she knows I’m an Explorer.

“This is a travel magic called [Warp].”
“I haven’t heard of it.”

Seems she doesn’t know about [Bonus Magic].

“It seems there are very few people beside me that can use it. That’s why keep it a secret.”
“Y-yes.”
“Please.”

I forcibly make Roxanne to agree.

“Master is amazing.”

It is forced, but she seems to understand.
Roxanne looks at me with a bit of a respectful look.

“Not really.”

It’s not bad being stared at by a beautiful girl.
I take out the leather cap from the [Item Box] and place it on Roxanne’s head who is looking at me with sparkly eyes.
The leather cap conceals her dog ears. It’s a bit of a waste but safety first.
I put on the other one.

“Err. Also the way you use [Item Box] seems a bit different. Is that also a different magic?”
“No, this is just a normal [Item Box].”
“Is that so?”

I take out the leather mittens and pass them to Roxanne.
While having her decide when to wear it, I had her carry the wooden shield too.
I wear the leather gloves, take out the wand and we are finished preparing.

I felt like Roxanne had an odd expression when she saw the wand.
However she didn't say anything.
As expected, she's being reserved in regards of her master.

"Is a wand a weapon a Wizard uses?"
"Yes, that's what I've heard."
"Do you know if it increases magic attack power or not?"
"I don't know. I'm sorry. I don't know the details. I didn't know anyone who could use magic."

Seems you can't become a Wizard if you aren't rich.

"I see. Do you know about Intelligence?"
"Is it about being smart?"
"No. Well, something like that, but…"

How should I say it?

"Like talking about brains?"
"Is Intelligence what increases Magic Attack?"
"Does being smart raise your Magic Attack?"

She replied back with a question.
Is there no knowledge about Status and Parameters?

"Like when you level up, things like Intelligence rises."
"Speaking of levels, are you talking about Explorer levels?"
"Well, that's ok too."
"Even if you level up Explorer, I don't think you'll particularly get smarter."

How should I say it, seems like the conversation isn't leading anywhere.
I give up about Intelligence. Should I ask other thing?

"Hmmm. And Roxanne, have you entered any labyrinth?"
"Yes. Around three sites."
"The labyrinths, does every one have the same look?"

I'll gather information about the labyrinths.
I'll have her teach me everything she knows about labyrinths. It'd be good if she is able to answer as much.

Is it better if I ask specific questions?

“That’s right. Master is an Explorer. After all, I think you should know, but…”
“… No. It’s because I haven’t entered many.”
“Is that so?”

Still, is it okay for her to teach me everything?

“Say. Demons don’t come out in this room, isn’t it?”
“Demons don’t come out in the rooms where you can use [Dungeon Walk]. I don’t know about Master’s magic.”
“In that case, it is okay. Because this is the first room after entering the first floor.”

I point Roxanne towards the black wall behind us.
The wall that leads to the entrance and other levels.

“Yes. That looks like it.”
“Then, we’ll leave this room, but I’d like you to help me with some experiments first. I think Roxanne will get to fight later. Don’t get too nervous.”
“Understood. It’s alright with me.”

Somehow, it seems really alright.
Or perhaps, should I say, she seems more composed than me.

The experiments I told Roxanne are just simple tests.
What happens if I raise the parameters with the bonus points from the [Character Reset]?
Since until now, I’ve been giving priority to exploration to gather funds, so I haven’t tried it yet.

First, I assign 99 points to raising Intelligence.
I cast [Character Reset] and fiddle with it.

Incidentally, I look at the [Bonus Skills].
Among the [Bonus Skills] are [Level Limit Unlock], [Damage Limit Unlock] and [Party Entries Unlock]. These three Unlocks were right next to each other.

[Level Limit Unlock] and [Damage Limit Unlock]. Somehow I can

understand.
Since I don't think I'll be restricted for a lowly Explorer Lv27, I just leave it alone.

However, I wonder what is [Party Entries Unlock]?
When I was solo, it was out of the question, but now I'm in a party with Roxanne.
It's possible that we'd be obstructed by some restriction.

In the [Character Reset], I check the [Party Entries Unlock] option.
The [Character Setting] screen got refreshed.

It seems a few new entries were installed.
In [Bonus Magic], [Partylization] was added.
What's that? Is it for the party?

Is it for inserting someone in the party?
Is that Party formation?
For now I'll check the option.

[Bonus Skills] was changed too.
[Job Setting] now changed into [Party Job Setting].
It isn't checked. Seems it isn't useful yet.

I check it and gain [Party Job Setting].
As expected, it costs 2 bonus points.

I finish the [Character Reset] and cast [Partylization]
Besides not knowing how to use it, there's no other way than to test it.
It's unreliable, but it shouldn't be a dangerous magic.

After casting, I knew what it was requesting.
That thing is probably an item.
Isn't it a magic that gives the item's effect to the whole party?

"Roxanne, did you feel anything strange?"
"What is it?"

It seems there wasn't any change in Roxanne's case.
It looks like only the user is affected.
Well, is it natural?

Next, I look at Roxanne and cast [Party Job Setting].
The jobs came to my mind.

Beast Soldier Lv6, Villager Lv8, Farmer Lv1, Warrior Lv1, Swordsman Lv1, Explorer Lv1.

These should be the jobs Roxanne has.
Seems I can seriously change them.
It's great that she doesn't have the Thief series job.
It means that she has never stolen anything since she was born.

Beast Soldier Lv6
Effects: [Agility Medium Increase], [Stamina Small Increase], [Skill Small Increase]
Skill: [Beast Attack]

Looks like Beast Soldier's effects are good.
It's ok to leave it like that.
Being able to change party member's jobs, depending on how you use it is a fairly powerful skill.

Unfortunately, [Character Reset] didn't become a [Party Character Reset].

"Then, let's go."
"Err. I think it's a good idea to lease a Magic Crystal"

Roxanne and I stay in the small room when we were about to leave.

"Eh? What?"
"A Magic Crystal."
"Magic Crystal?"

Roxanne nodded.

"Erm. Demons hold magic power. When you defeat a demon, that magic power, little by little, is collected in a Magic Crystal. The collected magic power after being sold can be used as an energy source for the Guild Temple and other things."
"About leasing them."
"If you aren't carrying a Magic Crystal, you won't collect the magic power from defeated demons."

Seems it is something I haven't done.
Up till now, I haven't carried one.

"In short, if you are carrying a Magic Crystal, you'll collect magic power while defeating demons."
"Yes"
"By any chance, can a Magic Crystal be sold for a lot of money?"
"That is so, from the items you can get in a labyrinth, I think it is the most expensive."

W-what did you say?

"…It that so?"
"Ah, no. It can be sold for a lot, but magic power is something you can only collect little by little. A Magic Crystal is not something you sell many times in a lifetime. Even if you haven't carried one until now, it isn't a big loss. It's alright."

She takes into consideration that I look depressed.

"How do you get a Magic Crystal?"
"You can find one in a labyrinth or if you go to the Explorer's Guild, you can buy one that's been emptied of magic power."
"Then we'll go buy one later. I haven't seen something like that in the labyrinth so far."

I think I haven't seen a Magic Crystal here yet.
Or, even if I saw one since I didn't know, did I ignore them?

"This labyrinth, isn't it relatively new since it's been found?"
"I've heard that. Seems it's just over 10 days old."
"In that case probably there's no Magic Crystal. Because it takes time for the magic power to gather and crystallize."

So I didn't simply let one pass?

"About earning money from the labyrinth, is there any other way besides item drops from demons and Magic Crystals?"
"There are Treasure Chests."

Ah. As expected, there were Treasure Chests?

“I don’t think I’ve seen one.”
“I think there are very few in a new labyrinth. Even if there is, they’re higher up.”
“Up?”
“Yes. It’s the place one aims towards while advancing the exploration. I think if taken from the position of one that just got in.”

It wasn’t down, but up?
I had the image that the labyrinth spread underground, but…
There are many inconsistencies with that.

“Never mind. Well then, where should we go?”

The right one is to go to the second floor, but I wasn’t really aiming to explore.
Then, let’s go look in the middle.
When I was leaving, Roxanne stopped me.

“Master, the demons are closer on the left side.”
“Eh? You can tell?”
“Yes. I can smell them.”

What’s that?

“Is it because you’re from the wolf beast tribe?”
“Even among the wolf beast tribe, my nose is very effective. I pride myself on detecting demons.”
“Amazing.”
“Thank you.”

We advance left, choosing among the passages leading left, right and center.
A Needle Wood appears not one minute after walking.

Amazing, Roxanne.
Good looks, good in bed, good in the labyrinth.
She fills three important requisites.

“Really amazing.”
“Here it comes.”
“No, wait a second.”

I stop Roxanne who was heading towards the Needle Wood.
I cast [Fire Ball].

“Eh?”

Roxanne raises a confused voice.
A fireball appears over my head.

Chapter 34 – Secrets

Needle Wood Lv1 is crushed with 1 blow from [Fireball] with bonus points poured in until Intellect increased to 99.
If I don't allocate anything, it surely needs 2 to 3 shots.
I have no doubts that the magic attack power has risen due to Intellect's increase.

I don't think the size has changed, but the speed has increased.
If the movement velocity increases then it becomes difficult to dodge.
A welcome change.

Even if Intellect is increased to the max, it only gets bigger by approximately one size? That's as much as it gets.
In my case, looks like it doesn't change much.
To take it down in 1 blow, the power still increases, so there is no problem.

"Eh? Eeh? Eeehhh? … Is-isn't this magic?"

Roxanne, who sees my magic, is a bit confused.

"It's magic."
"Isn't Master an [Explorer]? But I have not heard that an [Explorer] can use magic."

But, she soon regains her composure.
Her facial expression returns to the serious expression she had when we entered the labyrinth.
As expected, it seems that there are not many people who can take up a second job.

"Well, this is also a secret."
"It's a se-secret?"

I'm deceiving her by keeping everything a secret.
Actually, it is useless to explain.
Would she understand that second job is applied by [Character

Reset]?

“Do you understand what [Character Reset] is?”
“Re…set?”
“What about Bonus Points?”
“Is it something specially received as a reward?”
“Umu.”

After all, explanation is impossible.

“S-Somehow I don’t understand it, but being able to use magic is amazing.”
“Thanks.”
“Moreover, being able to defeat a monster with one blow from magic is amazing. Magic has more power than a sword, but I heard that defeating in one blow is somewhat difficult.”
“Well it’s not always one blow. Just don’t lose focus now.”

I think Roxanne is the type that doesn’t lose much focus in the labyrinth.

Roxanne goes to the place where the Needle Wood fell and picks up the branch.
I take it from the rucksack where she tries to place it.

“Erm. I will carry that.”
“It’s fine. There is still space in the [Item Box].”

I put the branch in the [Item Box].

“There is space? Erm. Excuse me, if it’s fine, I would like to ask what Master’s level is?”
“[Explorer]? It’s Lv27.”
“Lv27 … Amazing … Certainly, if that is the case, then there is space.”

I can put in the [Item Box] a number of items equivalent to the level.
It seems Roxanne also knows this.

However, Roxanne who was thinking “But we’re almost the same age”, was she pondering what my level could be?
Even though she was not at a price a low level could afford.

Is it that? Does she think that I spend my parents' money?
The usual son who comes from afar, living on his parents' inheritance.
It's probably become an excuse for my lack of common sense.

My level, it could be summed up as a bit high if you look at my age, but not to the extent that it's impossible.
For 200x Experience over 10 days of entering the labyrinth, holidays aside, that is just under 6 years' worth.
Aren't there children who enter a labyrinth from 11 years old in this world?
When I think about raising levels, I don't know what will happen from now on, but…

"About my level, keep it a secret."
"Of course."

But since she asked, it is alright to tell her though it is discourteous.
As expected, Roxanne knows how important privacy is.

"Well then, where should we go?"
"Is it fine to go to a place where there are monsters?"
"Because I don't want to be seen using magic by too many people, if possible, I would like a place where there are no people."
"Understood. Because it's a secret."

It seems that she understands it is a secret.
Because it is an order, she seems to be giving precedence to maintaining secrecy.

However, it is amazing that she can easily acknowledge the direction of places without people.
If she recognizes the smell of monsters, it can be said she also can smell people.

"I am relying on you. Roxanne is really useful."
"Thank you very much. This way."

Roxanne guides me.

"Can you tell monster types and numbers by the smell?"
"I can tell to some extent, but not perfectly. Also, I can't tell by the

smell if they're on the other side of a hidden door, so monsters may appear along the way. I can't always know what the shortest route to *the monster is."

While advancing and talking with Roxanne, we soon arrive at the place with monsters.
She is really useful.
This time, I raise my intellect to 50 points and fire a [Fireball].
Needle Wood Lv1 endures the hellfire.

"Not good enough?"
"Please, leave it to me."

Roxanne pulls out her scimitar.
She runs off without waiting for my reply.

This is unexpected.
Even though 2 [Fireball] shots would have been enough.

Roxanne enters the space between me and the monster to finish it off, so I can't shoot magic.
I can't expect the [Fireball] to pass through party members.
Since [Firestorm] did not work on the thieves, then probably it will not work on party members.

Roxanne swings her sword which is held in her right hand and slashes the Needle Wood.
She steps aside to avoid the swung branch.
She targets the shoulder of the monster that just missed. Like that, she lands a single cut.
Roxanne again easily avoids the branch swung from the right.
She steps in and swings the scimitar down from the front.
The swung branch is avoided with half a step. While avoiding, she lands a hit.

Amazing.
I stare for a little bit.
Roxanne perfectly avoids the Needle Wood's attacks.
It doesn't feel like the monster's attacks hit.

She doesn't just easily avoid them; the avoiding distance is paper

thin.
She evades the monster's attacks by centimeters, no, it's millimeters.

At a simple glance, it looks like there isn't much margin, but it's actually the opposite.
If avoiding by a lot, it results in wasted movements. Shifting to attack becomes difficult.
If one can perfectly see all enemy attacks, then just barely dodging them is best.

Roxanne's movements are exactly that.
She looks like she's dancing magnificently.
She is avoiding with light steps or turning her body to let them go past.

Are the Needle Wood's attacks so predictable?
Well certainly with the branches.

I put the wand on my waist, drawing the copper sword, and I also engage.
Because Roxanne is present, there's time to switch weapons.
There might be even enough time to bring out Durandal.
I'll do that starting from the next one.

I join the battle with the copper sword.
I take up position a little bit apart from Roxanne on the left side and swing down my copper sword.
I receive a branch swung from the left.
I deflect the branch from the right.

The branch that misses Roxanne due to her dodging approaches me.
I avert my upper body in a hurry.
With my posture about to collapse, from the left, the branch is swung.
Somehow, with the copper sword, I receive it.

Yeah. To say it plainly, it is unreasonable.
It is not easily avoidable for me unlike Roxanne.

Moreover, Roxanne is slashing many times in the meantime.
I also find a chance and drive in my copper sword.

The Needle Wood collapses.
It drops a branch, becomes smoke, and disappears.

“A-amazing. You avoided all of the attacks.”
“Thank you very much. Because we’re in a party of two, I wasn’t worried.”

Not at all. When you are alone, you dodged everything, isn’t it?

“Is that so?”
“If you look properly, that level of attack can be dodged.”

That might be so.
However to be frank, I don’t think anyone can do it.
Roxanne is an amazing person, isn’t she?
Even knows the monsters’ whereabouts.

“Going to the next monster, I want you to leave it to me.”
“Got it.”

The way things are going, I’ll be taken lightly as a master.
Although, I can use magic.
I feel like I should show her a fight with some impact.

Generally, Roxanne’s movements feel almost like a demi-god.
That is impossible for a normal person.
At least, it is impossible for me.
Since there is [Overwhelming], I might be able to imitate her a little bit.

So, I might say Roxanne is always in a state of [Overwhelming].
Perhaps she’s really using it, isn’t she?

“Regarding [Beast Attack], what kind of skill is it?”

Beast warriors possess [Beast Attack] skill.
It might have an effect similar to [Overwhelming].
By the name, I think it is an attack skill.

“It is a technique that deals a large amount of damage to monsters.

However, I'm sorry. I cannot use it."
"Can't use it?"
"All skills and magic incantations are in Brahim language. Since ancient times, due to the Brahim language's power of words, it has been treated as a sacred language. A person who can't speak the Brahim language can't use skills."

Is that how it is?
It seems that Brahim language is a useful language.
To use skills, one must learn Brahim language.
It has become a common language.

"But, it seems you have reached a point where you can speak Brahim language."
"Yes. However, it is still insufficient."
"Don't understand things like incantations?"
"No, since the incantations needed to use skills appear in the mind. However, the differences in pronunciation, accent, intonation, minute nuances, etc., if they're not all perfect, the incantation will be unsuccessful. Not only to the extent of daily conversation, but if you aren't completely fluent in the Brahim language, using skill incantations is impossible."

Come to think of it, I understand that incantations somehow appear in my mind.
This seems to be the same for other people.

"Is that so?"
"When using a skill, one must make an opportunity to chant the incantation. Not being able to use skills is not a big problem. For a beginner like me, it is not good to use skills."
"I see."

I guess for a vanguard to use attack skills, that is the case.
I don't think Roxanne is a beginner.

"Errm. Is it fine to listen to one?"
"What?"
"When Master uses magic, there is no chanting of incantations. I thought chanting was necessary for skills and magic."

Crap.
My asking about skills has brought trouble upon me.

“It’s not something I can teach. I think it’s impossible with the exception of me. Keep it secret.”
“Certainly.”
“Umu.”

I already feel bad keeping everything secret.

“As expected, Master is amazing. Also, you’ve mastered the Brahim language so easily. People who master the Brahim language are really amazing.”

Roxanne intensely gazes at me.

I am a bit embarrassed. Since the ability was bestowed to me.
I don’t really understand why I can speak the Brahim language.

“Oh, really?”
“Yes…”

I pull myself together and move on with Roxanne in the lead.
While following, I take out Durandal.
For other skills, I set [Required Experience 1/5] and [Experienced Gained x10].

Bonus skills are a reduction in necessary experience and an increase in acquired experience.
While together in a party, the [Experience Gained] may be divided between the party members.
The [Required Experience] might just work only for me.

In few minutes, we arrived at a place with monsters.

“As expected, Roxanne is amazing!”
“Am I?”

Until now, I had been walking around randomly, waiting to encounter monsters.
The difference in efficiency is overwhelming.

“Hmm. By the way, have a look at my sword. What do you think

about it?”
“It is a very splendid sword.”

I show Durandal to Roxanne.
The answer isn’t quite what I wanted, but she understands that it’s a good sword.

I charge towards the monster.
While running I raise Durandal and strike at the Needle Wood Lv1.
In a single blow, the monster is defeated and disappears into smoke.

“In a s-single blow, Master is amazing.”

Roxanne has a slightly bewildered expression as she picks up the branch.
It’s an unprecedented good feeling to have such a beautiful woman looking at me.
After all, I can rely on Durandal.
I think Roxanne’s impression of me has gone up.

“Well, but it is the sword that is the amazing one.”
“It’s definitely a good sword. Also, it is properly maintained and it looks just like new.”

Roxanne inspects Durandal while I’m holding it up.
Durandal’s condition seems to have been acknowledged by Roxanne’s judgment.
If I think about it, whenever I use [Character Reset], it probably appears as brand new.
Otherwise, despite me having thoroughly used it, it would not be in great condition unlike the scimitar and copper sword which are almost unused.

Roxanne was angry at the condition of the scimitar and copper sword.
I don’t know how they were used before I got them though.

“This sword is a secret.”
“It’s a secret?”
“Well, if people find out about this sword….”

I take Roxanne's hand and pull it.
I turn my hand towards her neck, and motion it like a sword.

"Eh?"
"Give me the sword or I'll kill this woman! That sort of thing might happen."
"Ye-yes. That is certainly so. I understand."
"Yes."

I let Roxanne go.
With a slight threat, I think she won't treat a secret irresponsibly.
There really is a possibility.

"However, if a time comes when that happens, please choose the sword without holding back."
"Well, I'll be choosing Roxanne, but… I want to try and avoid getting into a situation where I could lose either."
"Certainly. …Well, thank you very much."

If she understands that there is such a possibility, she will not talk about it.

After that, we try a few things.
Testing objectives are: First, I want to calculate the smallest number of bonus points I need to increase Intellect by to defeat a Needle Wood Lv1 with one spell.
The fourth and fifth jobs are set to [Merchant] and [Herbalist] since they both have small intellect increases as part of their job stats.
And then, I want to test if there is a change in how many bonus points I need to increase intellect by to defeat a Needle Wood Lv1 with one spell.
If the necessary bonus points decrease, then match the effect of adding a job with small intellect increase.

The results:
Probably, the effects of the fourth and fifth jobs properly overlap.
It probably wouldn't change even if I added [Warrior] Lv16. Since the small stamina increase from [Warrior] probably isn't related to magic attack power.
Even if I add [Swordsman] Lv2, they probably wouldn't decrease. Perhaps the manifested effects are only the added parts (or the

positive stats).

It's only a possibility because even if I have the same bonus points allocated, sometimes a monster will be defeated and sometimes it won't.
There seem to be individual differences between the monsters.
Or, perhaps the correlation between the magic damage and intellect isn't constant?

However, the fact that with the same points sometimes they're defeated and sometimes not, there's a use for it.

"Alright, I will defeat it bare handed."
"Okay."

Even if the monster isn't defeated in one shot, it is nearly dead and easy to defeat.
I put away the Wand, and attack it together with Roxanne.

Roxanne attacks the Needle Wood Lv1 from the right, and I attack from the left bare-handed.
I punch its bark, but was it damaged?

A branch swings from the left.
I move my body roughly and narrowly avoid it.
I jump back two or three steps and nearly fall on my butt.
Since I'm not using the sword and I'm in close to the monster, it feels like quite a serious fight.

Roxanne brilliantly dodges the Needle Wood's attacks.
I wonder how she avoids it so easily.

Damn.
Maybe it's better to kick in this situation.
I turn sideways and kick it.
After the kick, I drive in a punch.
It swings a branch at me again.

No good, I can't avoid it.
In exchange for three jabs, I receive one hit myself.
I continue with a right straight punch delivered with all my might.

The body of the Needle Wood shakes violently.
After a little while, it begins to crumble.
The monster disappears into smoke.

I cast my [Job Setting].
Was that fine?

Hu? There is nothing.
Next is [Party Job Setting].

[Beast Soldier] Lv6, [Villager] Lv8, [Farmer] Lv1, [Warrior] Lv1, [Swordsman] Lv1, [Explorer] Lv1, [Herbalist] Lv1, [Monk] Lv1.

Roxanne got it.

“Did you get in the last blow Roxanne?”
“Yes. After Master hit it, it fell when I attacked with a thrust.”

Really? I didn’t see it.
Apparently you need to land the finishing blow to acquire the Monk job.

Chapter 35 - Monk

It appears that one needs to defeat a monster barehanded to gain the Monk job.

Roxanne, who delivered the finishing blow, acquired the job, but my jobs didn't increase even though I participated in the battle.

There's no helping it; to acquire the Monk job, we'll have to continue with the experiment.

"I'll deliver the finishing blow. Roxanne, just encircle it, but don't attack."

I take on the Needle Wood that didn't fall down after being shot with magic.

There have been instances where they're defeated with a single shot, so it must have sustained considerable damage.

Even saying so, facing it alone is pretty dangerous.

Or perhaps, impossible.

We both surround it.

Doing so, I'll only receive half the attacks.

Whoa.

Sometimes the branches that miss Roxanne can reach me too.

I don't know if a Needle Wood has a front or back side.

After all, it can swing its branches and attack in any direction.

As expected of a strange wooden man.

I have a hunch that we don't have an advantage surrounding it from the front and back.

However, it does decrease the number of attacks from the monster.

In reality, I'm the only one attacking, but I'm not the only target of the Needle Wood.

No matter how you look at it, Roxanne is stronger than me.

Seems it can't ignore her.

Roxanne, as usual, is avoiding the monster's attacks by a paper-thin margin.

The Needle Wood's branches are completely missing her.

What's with those movements?

Roxanne lightly moves aside, avoiding the monster's attack.

Once a gap is open, I give it a punch.

It swings its branch; I avoid it with large movements.

Its upper body is knocked back, but the monster aims for Roxanne.

Roxanne, again, easily avoids the thrown attack.

Since some time ago she's been doing it repeatedly.

Occasionally it's different; the monster's attack hits me.

Of course it misses Roxanne.

Possibly, from the Needle Wood's point of view, it looks like its attacks are hitting Roxanne, or maybe not.

At a glance, it doesn't look like a close battle.

That's if you see everything perfectly.

Since I'm the only one attacking, the battle takes a long time.

After the jab, I hit one, two straights.

I transfer force to it by rotating my hips.

It's not like it isn't taking damage from my fists.

I avoid a swung branch in a hurry.

There’s a chance when the opponent misses, but since I messed up my posture, I can’t follow up with a counterattack.

Next, the monster attacks Roxanne, but misses.

I simply use [Rush] here when it counts.

I take a step forward and another. I throw a straight punch while advancing another step.

Finally, the monster falls down.

I overcome this long mortal combat.

Of course, this mortal combat was between me and the Needle Wood.

Since I was the only one attacking, I’m certain I delivered the finishing blow.

I cast [Job Setting].

Monk Lv1

Effects: [Mind Small Increase] [MP Minute Increase]

Skills: [Medical Treatment]

This is it.

I set the job immediately and use [Medical Treatment].

The top of my shoulders are in pain because I got hit by the monster’s attack several times.

“Certainly, the pain has subsided. From now on, if you suffer the attack of a monster, I can use a skill to heal it, so make sure to always tell me.”

I inform Roxanne.

“You can do that?”

“Yes. Keep that a secret.”

“I… I understand. Master is amazing.”

Roxanne can speak fluently in the Brahim Language, but…

Generally, I have the feeling she’s told me a lot of times that I’m amazing since a while ago, but it’s only because I have multiple jobs.

I feel like a fraud.

From my chat with Roxanne, it seems the monk’s skill can only cure light injuries.

In case of large wounds like getting an arm cut off, the higher tier nourishment tablets are necessary.

But in short, it can be managed somehow or another with money. I’m relieved.

After further verification, we return through the wall in the Adventurer’s Guild.

Also we properly verified if wands have effects.

[Fire Ball], [Fire Storm], [Breeze Ball], [Sand Ball], their power probably isn’t increased.

I increased my Strength to 99 with bonus points, and swung a copper sword, but I couldn’t beat it with a single strike.

Basically, magic has more power than a sword.

I wonder how powerful Durandal is.

After returning to the Inn, I eat breakfast with Roxanne.

Then, once we entered our room.

“It’s very helpful having Roxanne around. I’m counting on your help from now on.”

I expressed my thanks to her after sitting on the bed.

Honestly, she’s really helpful.

First, having the ability to search for monsters, we could find them

quickly.

I haven't ever defeated as many monsters in a single exploration as we did this time.

To an extent, we didn't spend a long time inside the labyrinth. We only explored the first level, but we got every monster. Furthermore, for experimentation and acquiring the Monk job, one portion was spent in pointlessly long battles.

Inside the [Item Box] there are two slots full of branches and a third with a single branch.

Explorer is Lv27 now, so [Item Box] can stack up to 27 of the same item in a slot.

To sum it up, this morning's exploration earned us 55 branches. Additionally, we got 6 leaves.

Also, with Roxanne, I can let her be the vanguard and safely attack with magic.

Today, Roxanne didn't get hit by any monster's attack.

She effectively dodged everything.

While in the company of Roxanne I can bring out Durandal.

Any time I want, I can use Durandal to absorb MP from an enemy, so efficiency has gone up.

"Yes. Thank you. I look forward to working with you."

Roxanne bows her head while standing at the room's entrance.

Even if she lifts her head, it doesn't look like she'll move from there.

"I'll be counting on you."

"This is the first time I've defeated so many monsters. Master is amazing!"

"No. It's my first time too. It's thanks to Roxanne guiding me. Roxanne is the amazing one!"

“That’s not true. We defeated so many because of master’s overwhelming strength. And you did many amazing things.”

Somehow, we end up praising each other.

“Now, come sit here.”

“Y… yes.”

I beckon Roxanne.

Looks like I have to tell her to do everything.

“From now on, inside the room, you can sit whenever you like. Or, it’d be good if you were close to me whenever possible, as in sitting beside me. It’s not like I’ll push you down if you sit beside me, errr, I can’t say absolutely not, but I won’t do it much.”

Because Roxanne came next to me, I want to embrace her very much.

I can’t endure it any more.

I peek down the neck of her tunic at her unreasonably seductive white skin.

“I… It’s all right. I don’t mind it, ah…”

Because she said such a pleasant thing, I may have spontaneously embraced her.

I think now Roxanne is at fault.

Saying I don’t mind, do you mean us lying down in bed?

Ah. Or does she mean it’s all right if we just stay like this?

Dammit!

It can’t be helped. In exchange for not getting laid, I’ll calm down by playing with her dog ears.

They’re elastic and soft; they feel good.

“May I taste them?”

“Ehh. T-that… I don’t think they’ll be tasty.”

No, I’m sure they’ll be delicious.

Ahh, what am I saying?

Roxanne looks troubled as she hangs her head down.

That’s not it.

I won’t eat them.

I want to eat them, but not in that way.

“I’m not really going to eat them, just play with them.”

Just hold them in my mouth and taste their sweetness.

“Y-yes.”

“Is it ok if I touch your ears this way? If in any way you feel displeased or in pain just tell me. I’ll stop.”

“As long as you don’t do anything strange, it’s all right. Besides, well… It feels good when you caress them.”

Roxanne, whispering that while averting her gaze, is extraordinarily cute.

As expected, it’s ok for me to eat them?

However, her dog ears are reminding me of something.

A puff of baby powder, that’s not it. Something edible.

Not a cream puff, sponge cake, or marshmallows. Something more springy.

That’s it, Isobeyaki.

These droopy ears have the stretchy feeling of fried mochi rice cake.

They’re floppy and dangle helplessly.

They are moderately elastic and soft, being very charming to the human heart.

Isobeyaki?

It’s a food I like, but I might not get to eat it again in this lifetime.

I wonder whether or not there’s mochi, soy sauce, and nori seaweed in this world.

“Do you know if one can find Isobeyaki in this region?”

“Isobeyaki?”

“Yes. It is a food I like from my home town”

“I don’t know about this region, but if we go to the ocean, I think we can grill and eat some fish at the beach.”

That’s the literal meaning of Isobeyaki.

Maybe, it’s translating literally into Brahim language.

So, even if it’s translated, some concepts don’t necessarily exist.

“Is that so, well, let’s try searching for it?”

“Er-errmm. …Master, will you someday return to your home town?”

Roxanne asked.

As expected she’s curious.

“My home town?”

“Yes.”

“Rather than returning to my hometown, I’ve acquired something even better.”

We chat while I keep playing with her dog ears.

This place isn’t Japan. But there’s a nice substitute for Isobeyaki.

I got the best dish. It’s soft, smooth, and springy.

“…”

“I won’t return to my hometown. Probably, I can’t return.”

Because Roxanne has gone silent, it seems I gave her too serious an answer.”

I know it’s something I must think about.

“Really?”

“Yeah. If I had to return to my home town, unfortunately, I’d have to release Roxanne.”

I lift her ears with my hands and flap them around.

“No, well. That was not my intention.”

“It’s okay. I understand.”

“I think it is normal to sell a slave that is no longer necessary.”

I see. Is that common sense?

Is Roxanne anxious because she’s afraid of being sold?

“I intend to be with Roxanne forever.”

“Okay. Thank you.”

“However, because it only makes sense to aim to increase the party’s battle potential, I plan to increase the number of party members!”

I make my harem declaration in a roundabout way.

I’m just saying that I’m increasing the party members, without mention of increasing the harem members.

Even if it’s inevitable that the vanguard will be some muscular middle-aged man, the rear guard must be a collection of pretty girls, don’t you agree?

I think that’s common sense.

“Yes, that’s to be expected.”

I don’t know how much Roxanne understands. I interpret it that she gave her consent.

I’m not sure if it’s really reasonable or not to increase your party members.

Gathering more party members would mean that from now on, we will get our income by exploring labyrinths.

However, are there any other ways?

It’s troublesome.

Agriculture, cuisine, trading, transportation, etc., it’s not like I have special knowledge of things useful in this world.

Developing something based on modern knowledge, I don’t know if it would work or not.

In the past, I read the biography of James Watt.

Speaking of business, he seems to have been successful but through suing for patent infringement against his rivals.

I don’t think there’s something like the concept of patents in this world.

Assuming there’s potential, should I make Roxanne a midwife?

I think the work of midwives is mostly done by females.

When delivering a baby, one would disinfect their hands with lime water.

Scissors and other tools would be disinfected with boiling water.

The sheets and towels can be hung up and disinfected by the sunlight.

This way, you can reduce the rate of deaths from postpartum infections by a large margin.

The day would be close when miscarriage gynecology becomes standard medical care in this world.

But as a practical question, it’s not very realistic.

First, it would be difficult for Roxanne to be a midwife.

Midwives for humans, wolf people, elves, and dwarves might be different.

The rate of postpartum infections might be different even if you could help different species.

Here, does a midwife need to wash their hands in water boiled with medicinal herbs before the delivery of the baby, or some other existing custom? This one is out.

Besides a midwife, maybe form a musical band with Roxanne playing a musical instrument or singing.

It would be good if I can turn some famous music from the modern world into hits in this world.

Trendy music, oldies, children's songs, pop, classics, etc. that I've listened to amount to 100 to 200 pieces. Probably I wouldn't have any problems for a lifetime here.

But, it would be difficult since I can't read sheet music or play a musical instrument.

It would be shameful to rely completely on Roxanne.

Since I learned that I can change the jobs of party members, in the worst case, that would become my work.

It's really the worst case, but…

If I work on changing jobs though, I would be revealing some of my abilities.

There would be people approaching me, aiming for the ability, and I fear I'd be dragged into trouble.

If possible, for my safety, let's abandon that.

After all, isn't getting income from the labyrinth the steadiest so far?

That's what my abilities are for anyways.

There are benefits to it.

I can raise levels in the labyrinth, and getting new jobs could turn out to be useful in any case.

Labyrinths aren't especially dangerous.

After thinking about it, according to experience, it's worthy of consideration.

However, going down as soon as possible. No, I mean going up. If one thinks about it, at present it isn't so dangerous.

It's ok if I carefully raise my level while going up the floors.

If one is so inclined, it's ok to stay in the lower floors.

In a single day, the income is a few thousand Nars. It won't be difficult to make a living.

"That's for the future, enough about that. Now, about a place to live, other than living in a hotel, could it be cheaper to rent a room somewhere?"

While murmuring my thoughts, I asked Roxanne.

"That is so. I don't know in detail, but if it is renting a room, a 1 year contract is 10,000 to 30,000 Nars. I think you can get a single house for 50,000 Nars."

"I see."

I don't know if that is cheap or expensive, but it's cheaper than living at the inn.

The hotel charges are 250 Nars a day. Multiplied by 365 days, it's over 90,000 Nars.

If we increase the number of party members, that will jump up.

"I'll do the cleaning and other chores."

"Ah, that's right. I'll be troubling Roxanne"

"No, it's no problem."

Living in a hotel, the chores and cleaning are left for the employees

to do.

Because Roxanne is a slave and a maid, she can be burdened with that.

Of course I'll do my part, but without vacuum cleaners, water service, or washing machines, in this world it's going to be a time consuming labor.

"Hey Roxanne, can you cook?"

"Yes, I think I can do some dishes."

A slave, a maid, and a cook.

"Now that you mention it, it seems a master is responsible for providing food and living space to a slave but, putting the inn aside, is it ok to rent a house?"

"Yes. Of course."

"Even sharing a bed?"

I try to embrace her while lowering my voice.

"Y…yes. In fact, I'd be grateful."

That's what she said.

Was I being a bit mean?

It would seem she was thinking I'd make her sleep on the floor. Well, that was how I should have answered.

While embracing her, I touch her soft and plentiful bouncy chest.

Those bulges under the clothes with no bra.

Oh no.

At this rate I'll push her down onto the bed. I said I'd refrain from doing it for the time being.

Why did I say that thing.

“How many days in a year?”

“Let’s see. 360 days and a few more.”

There’s no helping it, I keep questioning.

According to Roxanne’s explanation, with one year having four seasons; spring, summer, autumn and winter have 90 days each. Looks like there are one or two days off between each season.

If it’s one day or two days, it appears to be a leap year.

Thereupon, one year with 363, 364 days plus a few days, it’s almost the same as Earth.

Did we just enter spring?

There’s no way to know an exact date.

If a year has 365 days, of course renting a place is better.

“If I’m renting a place, where should I rent it?”

“I think it should be okay to rent one in a somewhat big town.”

“I see.”

I guess villages and such would be wary of outsiders.

“However, in the case of Explorers, I heard a lot of them live in Quratar and the imperial capital.”

“Quratar? I think I’ve heard about it.”

“There’s a big labyrinth in Quratar. I’ve gone into it once. An Explorer companion had a shop there so it was convenient. In Master’s case, since you can use magic, I think any place is good to live.”

I think by magic she meant [Warp].

If considering using Warp to go to a labyrinth, certainly there’s no problem living anywhere.

“But remember one thing. I don’t want it to be found out that I can use magic. I think we should live in a place where it’s common for

Explorers to live.”

Because it has a labyrinth, an Explorer living in Quratar isn’t going to be strange.

Should we pay it a visit?

I have 5 gold coins left. If it’s 50,000 Nars, I can afford it.

It doesn’t seem the [30% Discount] will activate.

If it’s a 2 year contract, it might work.

Until we save up 100,000 Nars, we should look around.

But, without knowing future circumstances, taking a 2 year contract is a big risk.

It isn’t a sure thing that the [30% Discount] would work with a 2 year one anyways.

Perhaps, we should sign a 1 year contract.

That. However, do taxes exist?

“Come to think of it, I haven’t heard anything about taxes. How do you pay them?”

“…Ah, well. T-Taxes…”

Roxanne replied with difficulty.

“Did I ask something bad?”

“I’m sorry. There’s no problem. After both my parents died, I became a burden to my aunt’s household. This year they weren’t able to pay their family’s taxes…”

“Is that so?”

It seems Roxanne was sold off because they weren’t able to provide their taxes.

I thought it was only a thing in historical period dramas, but they do sell their daughters if they can’t pay their annual tax.

I pat Roxanne’s head.

Slowly, I pat her to reassure her.

“The tax is a poll tax. It’s paid in the winter of every year to the feudal lord. Master is a free man so it is 100,000 Nars. Slaves are 10,000 Nars. I think probably someone already paid Master’s portion for this year.”

“I see.”

I believe it hasn’t been paid though.

I’m glad she explained it willingly.

The tax for us two is 110,000 Nars?

Right now it just entered the spring season. There’s still time.

There shouldn’t be any problems.

While patting Roxanne’s head, I pull her closer.

“Umm. Well. I think I’m fortunate to be able to serve Master like this.”

Roxanne leans on my shoulder.

Chapter 36 - Magic Crystal

Later on I asked Roxanne things about the Labyrinth.
The Labyrinth is believed to be a creature.
What!?

The Labyrinths aren't everywhere, they're just in various places.

"So it's like the larvae inside the Antlion?"
"Antlion?"
"Ah, don't worry about it."

The Labyrinth lures in humans instead of ants.
The human is digested and absorbed by the demon for it to live.
Then it multiplies.

The Labyrinth is an area that the Labyrinth creature produced with magic.
You won't find it even if you dig into the ground near the Labyrinths entrance.
Is that why the levels go up instead of down?

If you go to the top floor of the Labyrinth and defeat the boss, you will kill the Labyrinth.
Exterminating a Labyrinth near where people live is the Lord's responsibility.

"Also, if you defeat a Labyrinth in an area without people, you can become the Lord of that region."

Roxanne explains it with enthusiasm.

"Thank you, I understand."
"You're welcome."

It seems I need to be taught a lot.
I return my thoughts to getting back to the room.
I pull out a leaf from the item box.

"Roxanne, the rucksack is ready."

“Is an antidote the only thing you can use a leaf for?’

I was curious.

“What? That’s right. That’s what I’ve heard. After you sell it to the guild they will distribute them to the pharmacists & herbalists to be turned into antidotes.”
“I thought so.”

I place the leaf in the palm of my hand, and raise it towards Roxanne.
I used [Herbal medicine generation].
Ten antidotes appeared and spilled out of my hand.

“What? This…. This is…. amazing.”

Roxanne looks at me with respect.
I like to show off.
Surprises one by one.

“This is a secret.”
“Yes… Master is amazing.”

It’s not that big of a deal if I reveal the secret.
This is possible for Roxanne as well if I change her job.
Roxanne looks captivated.

After the antidote is made I put 59 of them in Roxanne’s rucksack.
One piece is placed in the item box.
There is already 26 of them in there, but the space has increased by one.

“Are there a lot of demons that use poison?
“Yes, I have heard there is a considerable amount.”
“So antidote is a requirement?”
“Only if the demon manages to hit you.”

I’m extremely thankful for Roxanne.
They’ll probably be needed soon.

After making the antidote, we went to the explorers guild.
We bought the Magic Crystal that Roxanne had told me about.

“Lets make it two Magic Crystals.”
“Would you like the black Magic Crystal?”

Roxanne? You didn’t tell me about this.

“Um, I want to use it to collect magic.”
“Then it’s the black Magic Crystal. Please wait a moment.”

After selling the antidotes from her rucksack, Roxanne went over to the notice board.
She’s reading intently.
Being able to read would be convenient.

I bought two black magic crystals for 20 nars.
It seems the 30% discount still isn’t working with the explorers guild staff.
I exchanged 10 copper coins for each magic crystal.

Magic crystals are small stones, about the size of a chicken egg.
As the name black magic crystal indicates, the color is black.

I don’t think I’ve seen any in the Labyrinth.
With the small size I may have overlooked them.
[Judgement] works on them though.
The name of the crystal is black crystal, not black magic crystal.

“What is the higher level ointment of nourishment?”
“Nourishment medicine.”
“How much is it?”
“600 nars for one.”

The price suddenly got rather high.

“And the level after that?”
“Nourishment tablets.”
“How much is that?”
“It’s 6,000 nars each.”

It increased by ten times.
It’s a price that I somewhat expected, and I bought two nourishment medicines and a tablet.
Let’s hope we don’t take any major injuries.

“It seems to be a black magic crystal.”

I go over to Roxanne and show her the crystal.

“Magic crystals change color according to the amount of magic they contain. When you defeat ten demons it will become red. It will become purple after 100, blue after 1,000, green after 10,000, yellow after 100,000 and white with 1,000,000.”

So the color changes?

“It’s a black magic crystal because there is no magic in it?”
“Yes, and the price changes according to the color. As soon as the color changes you’ll get the higher price. There aren’t many who work on them until they become white though, most will sell them off when they are yellow or green.”

So the price won’t change for a purple crystal with 100 monsters worth of magic compared to a purple crystal with 900 monsters worth of magic.
So I have to defeat 100,000 demons to make it yellow, and a million to make it white.
If I defeat 100 per day then it will take around three years to make it yellow, and 30 years to make it white.
As Roxanne says, there won’t be many chances to sell them in a lifetime.

“I understand, so shall we go to the Labyrinth?”

We left the guild.
Even though we spoke a lot in the inn, not much of the day has passed, it’s still morning.
In the bright sunlight, I walk while often looking back over my shoulder.

I’m looking at Roxannes breasts.
She follows along behind me and they jiggle with ever step.
It’s not easy to see though, since she is wearing the Leather Jacket.

They are shaking.
Even though I didn’t notice it in the dim light of the Labyrinth.
It definitely isn’t an illusion.

The shoulder strap from the ruck sack appears to be digging in at the side.
Like tied up large, sweet fruit.
Very distracting on the eyes.

When Roxanne notices my eyes, she smiles.
I've been discovered.
All the respect I had managed to build up from things like making antidotes has been ruined.

After being found out, I continue hurrying to the Labyrinth.
Even though I could watch the jiggle if I walked beside her, having a man and woman walk side by side on this world doesn't appear to happen.
My body also hides the shaking of Roxannes chest from other mens eyes.

"The first floor seems to be rather crowded."

As soon as we enter the Labyrinth, Roxanne checks out the surrounding area with her sense of smell.
She doesn't even need to look.

"It's crowded?"
"Yes, there's a search end declaration out stating that the exploration of the first floor has been completed."

I don't understand it well, but is it a notice from the explorer's guild?
So alot of people have heard about it?

"Should we move on?"
"Yes, I've been as far as the third floor. I can fight monsters on that floor."
"Lets try the second floor."

We head into the black wall, and come out on the second floor.

"The second floor doesn't seem very crowded, there's a demon to our right."
"Is that right. Do we just need to keep the magic crystal in our possession?"

I pull a magic crystal from the item box and pass it to Roxanne.

“Yes, it’s fine to keep it in the rucksack. Magic won’t be collected if it’s kept in the item box though.”

The rucksack is lowered and the black magic crystal is placed inside.
We prepared our equipment and went into the right cave.

“I’ll try to defeat the demon with magic. Don’t dash ahead without permission.”
“Okay.”
“What is the search end declaration?”

After giving Roxanne a warning, I questioned her.

“It’s a declaration that all searches of the first floor have been completed.”
“And the amount of people here increase when the search ends?”
“Until the search ends, there might be some rooms with large quantities of demons.”

Ah, there was a room like that.
There was a room with at least ten Needle Woods in it on the first floor and it was a difficult fight.

“That doesn’t happen after the search ends?”
“When the search ends, it means rooms like those have been searched.”
“When a demon appears in a place like this, after a little while it will start traveling around. But when a demon appears in one of those rooms it’s just stuck there, so after a while the amount of demons in the room start to build up.”

Roxanne explains it since I look doubtful.
Is that how the demon room happened?

“So now that the exploration is done, that won’t happen anymore?”
“Mostly, but if people don’t go there for many days the demons will still build up. That kind of room is an extremely dangerous trap.”

Even though that kind of room is appealing now that I know AoE

attack magic it seems the chance of finding one will be less.
There's still a chance if I continue climbing the floors though.
Was my luck good or bad finding one before I could use magic?

"I see, and that's why the people have increased."
"There's a demon."

Roxanne interrupts me with a warning.
A demon appears in front of us.
Needle Wood Lv2.

I launched a fireball that was powered up by me placing 99 points into intellect.
The demon was not defeated in a single blow however.

The second one is fired and the demon is defeated.
The demons seem to get alot stronger as their level increases.

Roxanne takes the branch and puts it in the rucksack.
The color of the magic crystal is still black.

Next I am testing the magic crystal.
In the bonus skills there is a crystallization upgrade.
Even though I didn't know what it meant before, I now think it's about the crystallization of magic.

I open the character settings and tick crystallization upgrade.
The skill becomes 4x increase.
I remove the bonus points from intellect and put them in crystallization upgrade.
The skill goes to 8x, then 16x, then 32x, and stops at 64x increase in crystallization.

Next, I defeated another Needle Wood Lv2. It still took two shots of magic so the benefit from increased intellect can't be noticed here.

I check the Magic crystal.
It's become a redish color.
This is a red magic crystal?

Another one is defeated and I check it again.
The color is now purpleish.

“When you defeat 100 it becomes purple?”

If two were defeated with the 64x increase, it becomes 128 kills.
The skill seems to be working.

“Roxanne, look at this?”

The purple magic crystal is take from the rucksack without waiting for an answer.
It will be seen at some stage anyway.
I want to recover my lost respect.

“What? Ah? …What!?”
“Mm, this is a secret.”
“Um, yes…. Master is amazing.”

After briefly showing Roxanne, I place it back in the rucksack.
I’m a bit surprised to.
Secretly cheating seems bad, but Roxanne doesn’t seem to mind.

“Do you know how much magic crystals sell for?”
“Green is 10,000 nars, and yellow is 100,000 nars.”

So if you need to hunt 10,000 demons for it to become green, then it’s one nar per demon?
So 64x is 64 nars? The income efficiency is better than the dropped items.

So if I want to earn money I put points in crystallization, if I want to become stronger I put points in experience, and if I want to fight something tough I put points in Durandal.
Things are going well.

“That’s will do for that experiment, though there are more to do.”

I declared to Roxanne.

“What experiments will be done?”
“There will be various ones with Roxannes help.”

In the party setting I switch Roxannes job to Monk.
I also set it to one of my jobs.

Kaga Michio. 17 year old male. Explorer Lv27, Hero Lv24, Wizard Lv26, Merchant Lv22, Monk Lv1.
Equipment: Wand, Leather Shoes, Leather hat, Leather armor.

Roxanne. 16 year old female. Monk Lv1.
Equipment: Scimitar, Shield, Leather Hat, Leather Jacket, Sandals, Mittens.

There's been numerous times I was injured, but now Roxanne and I both have the Monk job.
With this I can test how experience works.
Is my share of the experience divided between each of my jobs? If I compare Roxanne's Monk level to my own I can get a better understanding.

I'm not using my skill to decrease required experience til next level, and I've put the increased experience skill to 20X.
If I level up first, then the increased experience skill only works for me.
If Roxanne and I level up at the same time then we get the same experience.
If Roxanne levels up first then my experience is divided between my jobs.

Lets see how we go.

"Do you feel any changes to your body?"
"No, not really."

When I removed the Hero job I didn't notice my body feeling heavier.
It doesn't seem like something you can be aware of.

"I would have liked to do this on the first floor, but I guess we'll have to do it here. There might be some danger so please do not fight anything until the experiment is over."
"It will be dangerous?"
"Well, the experiment won't be dangerous, but it may hinder your fighting ability a bit."

I don't really understand the difference between Beast Warrior Lv6 and Monk Lv1 so it's best to be cautious.

“Did you do an experiment like this already? Was I not supposed to fight?”
“No, but I might get you to try fighting later.”

What happens when I change Roxannes job isn’t the aim of this experiment.
If I test that it’s best to do it on the first floor.
I don’t think she’ll be defeated in a single blow just because she’s Monk Lv1, but it’s best not to even try it.

After that I hunted some demons.
The increase in level happened at the same time for both of us.
The increased experience skill must work for the whole party.

Perhaps it isn’t divided between my jobs either.
There’s always the possibility that it’s divided six ways though, between my five jobs and Roxanne’s single job.

Next is testing out the skill to decrease required experience.
Only my Monk job increased to Lv3 quickly.
Well, that’s how it is.
We had to hunt 20 demons to get up to Lv2.
After decreasing required experience to 1/10th I was able to increase my level with three kills.

Since Roxanne’s level did not go up, it seems that the skill does not work for her.

At the moment my bonus points when I’m not using Durandal are like this:
31 points in decreasing required experience to 1/10th.
31 points in increasing acquired experience to 10X.
31 points in increasing magic crystallization to 32X.
15 points to get to the fifth job.
7 points to get 3X MP recovery speed.
3 points in incantation omission.
3 points in party job settings.
1 point each for Warp, Judgement, Party Job Settings, and Character reset.

Chapter 37 - Quratar

“About the groups of three monsters appearing, do they start from the 3rd floor?”

“No. I heard it starts from the 4th floor.”

“Then on the 4th floor, groups of four don’t appear.”

“Seems groups of four start from the 8th floor.”

After confirming Roxanne’s battle style on the 2nd and 3rd floor, we transfer to the 4th floor.

I ask Roxanne after I cast three spells at a group of two Minos and one Kobold that came first.

I confirm that [Fire Storm] only works against monsters.

“If that’s the case, then from the 16th floor, there are groups of five?”

“You understand it very well. That’s right.”

I got admired in an unusual way.

It seems that if groups of two come out on the 2nd floor, three on the 4th floor, and four on the 8th floor, then it is groups of 5 on the 16th floor.

With Roxanne guiding, next it is a group of one Mino and a Kobold.

First, the Kobold is reduced to ashes by [Fire Ball].

“Roxanne, take care of the Mino.”

For confirmation, I send Roxanne forward.

Roxanne, on the 2nd and 3rd Floor, was able to handle the Needle Wood Lv2 and Lv3 without any problems.

How well can she fight against a Mino Lv4 that looks like a

compacted cow?

Roxanne dashes with her scimitar.

A light attack from the front. The swung horn attack is easily avoided.

Again, after an additional attack, she nimbly dodges the Mino's attack.

What kind of bullfighter are you?!

She seems to be flawless against a single opponent on the 4th floor.

While Roxanne is facing the monster, I prepare Durandal.

I move towards the open left side and strike the Mino's flank.

I defeat the Mino and recover my MP.

"Looks like there are no problems with the 4th floor."

"However, the numbers. Will it be alright with three monsters?"

"Let's see. Two enemies, there's no problem at all. If we are surrounded by three, possibly we might suffer some attacks."

I feel that such thoughts are returning.

I'd panic if I was surrounded by three Minos.

"Aren't the horns scary?"

"Once you observe them there's no problem."

"Y-you dodged them very well."

"When the horn is swung and goes SWOOSH, it'll be alright if I pull my body like BAM and avoid it like WOOSH."

"…Understood."

Roxanne is the type of person who can't teach.

Like one of those genius types.

“In the first place, even if it puts all its strength into the horns on its head and charges, once it starts moving, it’ll be greatly visible and you’ll know what its intentions are in an instant. It’s like it’s telling you to avoid it.”

And that’s Roxanne’s story.

Just by hearing those words, I think I can do it too.

No, no. I can’t be fooled.

The only one capable of such a feat is Roxanne.

Well, it’s no use worrying about future things.

On the fourth floor, battles can be settled within three spell casts, so there’s no problem.

If we go up, the vanguard must face three monsters in the time it takes magic to be cast.

Because Roxanne said that she can take up to two enemies without problems, I have to give it my best against one.

After hunting for a while in the 4th floor, we return to the wall in the Adventurer’s Guild.

It’s not good, shutting oneself in the labyrinth.

No matter what, you get a lot of mental strain in the labyrinth.

A suitable change of mood is needed.

When we finished hunting, the color of the magic crystal had turned blue.

Roxanne’s magic crystal turned purple.

It seems you don’t gather magic power if you don’t deal the finishing blow to the monster.

It didn’t turn purple while Roxanne was carrying it but after I borrowed it.

Couldn’t that mean if I’m carrying several magic crystals, these

several magic crystals will be equally collecting magic power?

According to Roxanne, of course such a sweet deal couldn't exist.

Although, maybe it's different when using the [Crystallization Acceleration] skill.

To test that, I tried putting the two magic crystals in the rucksack.

The black magic crystal I borrowed from Roxanne turned purple after defeating nine monsters.

I had defeated two monsters using Durandal while the [Crystallization Acceleration] skill wasn't active.

The magic power obtained was 9 monsters x 32 multiplier + 2 monsters.

Since to turn a magic crystal purple you need the magic power from at least 100 monsters, it's okay to think that when carrying two magic crystals, the magic power will clearly be divided in two.

As expected, it seemed too good to be true.

When I returned the purple magic crystal, Roxanne was surprised that without even killing 10 monsters it turned into a purple magic crystal that needed at least 100 monsters defeated.

Because I told Roxanne that Kobolds aren't good prey, we didn't fight many Kobolds.

Roxanne is really helpful.

The Adventurer's Guild feels like it was more crowded than usual.

Could it be because of the Search End Declaration?

People are lined up at the purchase counter.

The people that came to sell place 4-5 branches and a leaf on the tray.

Certainly, people have been giving it their all in the first floor since the search ended.

Though the numbers are low.

“Leaves aren’t something we can buy.”

Roxanne says in a low voice.

With leaves costing 80 nars, even if I buy them at double the cost and without [30% Discount], selling 10 antidote pills with [30% Sale Price Increase], each leaf leaves a 165 nars profit.

“The Guild has the advantage on transactions with leaves. I think it’s better that we give up on it.”

Roxanne, as before, replies in a low voice.

Indeed. If we trespass on the Guild’s interests and are targeted, we don’t know what kind of retaliation they’d resort to.

I’ll stop pursuing this method to get income.

It was in a very low voice; nobody should have heard it.

Even so, today is very crowded.

From the Guild’s wall too, various parties are turning up.

Again, somebody comes out.

This time, a group of two people.

“Quratar, one way trip, anyone need?”

The first guy that comes out announces that.

Uh-oh. Is that an Adventurer that came from Quratar?

This is convenient.

I cast [Party Formation] and remove Roxanne from the party.

“I’ll go and be back in a bit.”

“Yes.”

Seems Roxanne soon understood the meaning of that.

Maybe she was simply obeying her master's orders, but her eyes looks like she understood.

I think she probably understood.

It would be good if she doesn't do something like running away while I'm not here.

Well, if she disappeared while I wasn't watching for a short time it would mean she already ran away.

It would mean we must be together around the clock.

I pay a silver coin and I'm taken to Quratar.

I confirm the sun's position and return soon after.

Roxanne is… there.

She really stayed.

"I'm back. Want to go visit Quratar?"

"Yes. I'll accompany you."

The party is formed, and after confirming the sun's position in Vale town, we warp to the Adventurer's Guild in Quratar.

The time in Vale is before 3 o'clock in the afternoon, so around a bit after 2 o'clock?

There's about 3 hours before dusk, so there's time to spare.

Quratar is in the middle of the day too, but I don't know the direction or longitude, so the time difference is unknown.

The Adventurer's Guild in Quratar is slightly larger than the one in Vale.

It still can't be compared to the Adventurer's Guild in the Imperial Capital.

There are only three purchase counters.

It's bigger than the Adventurer's Guild in Vale, but from what I'd

heard, I thought it was much bigger than this.

“Umm. Is that it?”

“Because in Quratar, the labyrinth and Explorers are in the center of town, the Explorer’s Guild is substantially bigger.”

Roxanne explains to me.

That’s probably because I unintentionally muttered that while leaving the Adventurer’s Guild.

“Is that so? Have you come here before?”

“Yes. I came here to inspect the labyrinth once. There are many labyrinths I want to enter at least once.”

“Well then, do you want to visit it again?”

“Certainly! It’s over there.”

Roxanne points without any hesitation.

“Do you know which way north is?”

“I’m sorry. I don’t know.”

“Still, you know which direction the labyrinth is in!”

Ah. The smell?

“In the town of Quratar, the labyrinth is located in the center. In the towns with a labyrinth at the center, the streets radiate and extend out from there.”

Seems it wasn’t the smell.

If one looks at it, towards one direction of the street the buildings gradually become sparser.

In the other direction, the buildings get more crowded.

I see. Is that way the center of town?

We start walking towards the center of town.

Even so, the townscape of Quratar is still smaller than the Capital's.

It's more prosperous than Vale town. It could be compared to that degree.

Nearing downtown, many stores do business with an open storefront on the 1st floor.

There are fish markets and bakeries, and over there is a hardware store.

After coming to this world, it's the first time I've seen stores, other than some street stalls.

Especially the nondescript ordinary stores.

It could be said that the stores don't have really complex shapes.

Beyond the hardware store where the street intersects, there is a roundabout and at the center, there is a thick hill.

It is the entrance to the labyrinth.

From the town center, many streets stretch out; there are shops lining both sides of every street.

"Is that the labyrinth?"

"That's right. The Knight's Order station is built across the street in front of the entrance. The big building on the opposite side of the entrance is the Explorer's Guild."

I can see a bit of the right side of the labyrinth's entrance, the black wall.

Opposite there, across two streets extending from the center, a 5-6 story building is standing.

A red-brown brickwork building boasting a majestic look.

Indeed, the Explorer's Guild is pretty substantial.

From the open doors on the first floor, many people are going in and out.

Also, at the Knight's Order station, many people are standing in line.

"Why are they queued there?"

"To enter Quratar's labyrinth one has to pay at the entrance. 100 nars per person each time."

They require an entrance fee?

It looks like it's a tourist attraction.

"If there's an entrance fee, it would be better to enter once we have more time. Do you know the best way to rent a house?"

"There are managers. We could ask in a shop somewhere about it."

"Hmmm."

Lets look in this hardware store or something.

I pull Roxanne's arm and enter the hardware store.

"But, Master."

"Umm?"

"Wouldn't it be okay if we entered with Master's magic?"

She tells me in a whisper.

I see.

Since I can use [Warp] to enter directly into the labyrinth, after only entering once, we won't need to pay the fee every time.

Echigoya, you too are evil!

I want to unwrap your sash, round and round.

We enter the hardware store.

Saucepans, scissors, hoes, shovels, and other unknown things made out of metal are on display.

There are padlocks too.

Weapons belong in a weapons store. Hoes and shovels seem to be considered farming tools.

“Welcome.”

The one who comes out is a middle-aged aunty.

37 years old, Merchant Lv44.

I feel her level is questionably high.

“We’re searching for a place to live in the area, do you know where I can fi-”

“You’ve found her. I’m the manager for the 6th district.”

Before I finish asking, she answers.

This is the manager? We’re lucky.

“6th district?”

“This town is divided by the streets that stretch out from the center. The area where the Explorer’s Guild is located is the 1st district. Followed counterclockwise by the 2nd, 3rd and this would be the 6th district.”

“I see.”

Each district has a prominent location facing the labyrinth.

Because this shop is the most prominent place in the 6th district, she’s probably very competent if she became a manager.

“Are you an Explorer?”

“That’s right.”

“What kind of property are you looking for?”

I’m stumped after hearing that.

“On the contrary, I’d like you to show us what kind of properties there are. We’re looking to rent one for around 40,000 nars a year, besides that we don’t have any other conditions.”

“You two will be living there?”

“Currently that’s the case, but later on…”

“Indeed. You’re an Explorer after all.”

Without saying everything, the aunty takes over.

She seems like a person that loves to talk.

An Explorer entering labyrinths would form a party of up to six members.

I guess there are many Explorers that live together with their party members.

The aunty looks towards Roxanne for a bit. Next, she looks at my face, grinning unpleasantly.

Seems like she realizes Roxanne is a slave.

And again, she stares at Roxanne like she’s using [Appraisal].

I don’t know how she realized Roxanne is a slave, but that face looks like someone that knows.

As one would expect from someone called a manager.

Or, like the slave trader told me, probably there are many people that make parties with slaves to enter the labyrinths.

“…Err.”

“You have a good girl here. Is it alright to be near the labyrinth?”

Being stared at, Roxanne wants to say something. The aunty leaves her alone and talks to me.

“I’m not being particularly picky.”

I guess the rent will be high being closer to the labyrinth.

Being close to the labyrinth, it is also close to downtown.

But in my case, I can just use [Warp] to go to the labyrinth.

Even if have something to do in the business district downtown, it would be enough to come out the wall in the Adventurer's Guild.

There's no reason to be living near the labyrinth.

Rather, I think that because being far from the labyrinth the rent would be cheaper, it would be better to live farther.

"If it isn't for an Adventurer, there's a house with the right value, what do you think?"

"It isn't good for an Adventurer?"

"The previous resident covered it all in shielding cement, it's difficult to use."

I don't understand the meaning.

"Because shielding cement was used, one can't travel with [Field Walk]. It would be hard for an Adventurer."

Roxanne, getting a glimpse of me looking like I need help, covers for me.

Roxanne is seriously helpful.

Furthermore, to hide the fact that I didn't know what shielding cement was, she nonchalantly covered it up.

I see.

An Adventurer would be living further away from the labyrinth.

It's fine to travel using [Field Walk]. There's no special reason to be living somewhere with an expensive rent.

But since it's covered in shielding cement, that house would be useless.

"Will you show it to us?"

There's no other way than to test if [Warp] works or not.

"Understood. I'll make the arrangements."

The Aunty goes back into the store again.

She reappears after a while and we depart via another street in the direction of the Adventurer's Guild.

It might be hasty to rent a house.

Because I need to learn more after coming to this world, or it'd be better to think more seriously about things from now on.

Concerning earthquakes, volcanoes, tropical cyclones, and other such natural disasters, I might need to investigate.

"How's the climate around here?"

"It's good! Summers are cool and it almost never snows in winter."

"How much does it rain?"

Roxanne is asking for information from the Aunty, but that amount is not enough.

However, at any rate, I don't have many choices.

At the moment, Quratar and the Imperial Capital are our two options.

There might be other places we can live without any problems, but it'd be more economical to rent right away than to spend many months researching and pondering.

If this turns out to be a very bad place, I won't feel regret if we find a better town somewhere else.

The manager aunty guides us as we continue down the street.

In the town of Quratar, tall buildings are only built in the downtown area; once we go farther away, it becomes the residential area.

Two-story buildings are side by side with some degree of separation.

It feels like the outskirts of some countryside.

Progressing further, it becomes more vacant lands and fields than

houses. A man there, for some reason, greets the aunty.

40 years old, a Villager Lv53?

I've never seen such a high level villager.

I feel like he's fearlessly strong. Is he really strong or am I being deceived by my own level?

"That was my husband just now."

She informs us after she exchanges a few words with him and leaves.

"He looks like an extremely strong person!"

"There isn't a rampart in this town, is it? Since this town was built around the Labyrinth, a rampart is meaningless. Monsters can appear anywhere in town, although they're weak. People afraid of monsters don't live in this town. My husband and I try to enter the labyrinth three days at a time."

According to Roxanne, monsters not only appear inside the labyrinth, but also in its vicinity.

Like the Slow Rabbit in the forest behind the first village, or the Gummy Slime that appeared while traveling in the carriage.

Towns are surrounded by ramparts so that such monsters won't attack.

Because there's a labyrinth right in the center of Quratar, it's probably useless to surround the town with a rampart.

If you think about it, it's a terrifying town.

Living in such a town, this couple seems to have tempered themselves.

The result of that is a Villager Lv53.

I'm alright because I can pull out Durandal anyways, but is Roxanne gonna be ok?

“Aren’t there any problems if monsters appear in the town?”

“There aren’t any problems.”

It was a foolish question.

“My husband works as a blacksmith in that shed over there. I handle the goods my husband produces.”

“Blacksmith?”

“Yes.”

“Is he a Master Smith?”

If he’s a Master Smith, maybe he can tell me the job’s acquisition method.

“A Master Smith is a job only Dwarves can obtain.”

“Is it different?”

“Inside the shed with a small smelting furnace he cast commodities. This has no relation to race. It’s something anyone can do given the techniques. Master Smith is a job in which, by means of magic skills, weapons and armor are produced, and only dwarves can become one.”

“I see.”

Somehow I don’t understand, but it seems Master Smith and Blacksmith are different things.

If you think about it, he is only a Villager Lv53.

That means one size fits all equipment is manufactured with skills?

Unfortunately, it seems impossible to obtain the Master Smith job to do smithing.

“Well, it’s over there.”

Progressing a bit further, we enter a narrow alley and then the aunty points towards a white house.

Chapter 38 - House

The manager aunty shows Roxanne and me the house that's being recommended as our living place.

A two story white house covered in mortar.

It feels like an ordinary house one can notice around this area and even in Vale town.

And yet, is it the sad nature of Japanese people that makes this feels so wonderfully big?

There is one thing that's improved in this world compared to today's Japan.

Although out of town, there are forests and plots of land just the same.

That one thing is my precious dog ears.

"The wooden windows have been restored. In the current condition, you can move in as soon as you bring in furniture."

The aunty opens the lock.

Inside the house, a cold naked concrete room is spread out.

As expected, it is big.

From a typical Japanese sense, one could already call this a mansion.

"Ohhh."

"The previous resident made many modifications, so there's no problem if you do any kind of interior remodeling. One special modification performed is a flushing toilet."

The aunty steadily moves forward inside the room and then opens an inner room's door.

Over in that small room there is a toilet.

“Flushing toilet?”

“You put water in the vessel above and it’ll wash it out the drain. The drain draws water from the nearby river. Here we’re upstream so it’s pretty clean.”

The bathroom has a toilet seat directly connected to the drain opening.

If water is put into the upper tank, it seems the force is enough to wash it away.

Flushing is preposterous, but it’s still better than directly leaving the human waste in the porcelain.

“I see.”

“Even if it’s put here, it’s still inconvenient. It’s a hobby of the previous resident. A second one was being put in the second floor, but it was stopped.”

“There’s a toilet on the 2nd floor too?”

“It was stopped, thus only the drainage is connected in the 2nd floor.”

The room next to the bathroom has a sink and a counter; looking at it, it seems to be the kitchen.

Roxanne is questioning the aunty.

“Then, let’s look at the 2nd floor for a bit.”

Fortunately, the manager aunty gets a hold of Roxanne and goes up to the 2nd floor.

I must test [Warp].

Once they go upstairs, I still know where Roxanne is.

Is this one of the party effects?

As a precaution, I remove Roxanne from the party. Visualizing the

adjacent room, I face the wall and cast [Warp].

For travel, a Party is a single unit, so I don't know what happens when Roxanne isn't around.

A black wall appears in front of my eyes.

I try going through.

I perfectly come out the next room.

It is a success.

It seems [Field Walk] won't work, but [Warp] still does.

[Warp] has really good utility as it can also transfer directly into the labyrinth.

However, the things I have to worry about increases by one.

It's better to avoid transferring just anywhere with [Warp].

It'd be disaster if one transfers to a place where [Field Walk] or [Dungeon Walk] aren't supposed to work.

I should only transfer to places where I've confirmed [Field Walk] or [Dungeon Walk] can get through.

I haven't transferred to many places besides the Adventurer's Guild's inner wall or the small rooms inside the labyrinth. It hasn't changed much even now.

The cave where the thieves were sleeping carefree just before I gathered the funds to purchase Roxanne, perhaps it possibly was covered with shielding cement.

Those driven-out thieves, without keeping watch late night and early morning, everyone was able to sleep without any care.

Because it was a place where [Field Walk] couldn't be used, were they relieved by the fact that nobody would come in?

After looking around the 2nd floor in a way that doesn't seem unnatural, they come down the 1st floor.

“What do you think? Besides the flaws in this house, the water well is far so you’ll need to travel a distance to draw water. Nevertheless, there shouldn’t be any problems.”

I am approached by the aunty who came down.

Finally, she fleetingly looks in Roxanne’s direction.

Even if the water well is far away, it shouldn’t be a problem when you can send the slave to draw the water.

“For me, it’s alright. I think it’s a good property.”

I don’t know to what extent Roxanne is truthful.

She should know that we can produce water with magic, right?

“I guess so.”

Because I can use [Warp] and [Water Wall], to me the flaws in this house aren’t flaws at all.

I could say that this is a good property.

The problem is if it is fine by ending up choosing the first house?

But, researching various houses would take time.

It’s cheaper than living at the inn, so meanwhile we’ll settle for this. It’ll be ok if we move to another place later if it turns out to be no good.

Because Roxanne said it’s a good property, it seems it isn’t a bad house.

“One year contract for this property is 45,000 nars. The contract, because you might not be able to move today, if it starts from tomorrow, it’ll last until next year’s 13th day of spring.”

In other words, today is the 13th day of spring?

Because there’s a market price, price-wise it isn’t bad.

The manager doesn’t seem to be a bad person.

The insight to grasp that Roxanne is a slave. She also kindly made the contract start from tomorrow..

The manager herself is an elected person; if there are several managers from the 1st to 6th district, there could be competition.

I think a dishonest manager that scams customers wouldn't be elected.

Once I look at Roxanne, she makes a big nod.

"Alright, let's rent this house."

After that, we walk and are taken to the Knight's Order station. My intelligence card is checked.

Even if she's a manager, her job is Merchant, so it looks like she can't use the intelligence card skill.

"We'll make the contract paperwork, but can you write?"

After returning to the hardware store, I am asked by the aunty.

As expected, seems there are a lot of people who can't write.

"Is it fine if someone writes on my behalf?"

"Of course."

"Then, Roxanne, please."

"Certainly!"

While the aunty and Roxanne are preparing the documents, I look around the store.

There's a Chinese Wok on display.

"What is this?"

"That's a pan that professional chefs use. It is used when cooking with high heat."

"Hmm."

It isn’t exactly a Chinese wok, but it resembles one.

It probably has a similar shape because it has the same use.

Feeling nostalgic, I gaze at the Chinese wok for a little while.

“We’re the only place that sells them around here. Probably you won’t see many.”

“Then add this to the rent. What’s the total?”

“I’m happy that you’d be interested in our specially made pan. That’s why as a special service the total is 31850 nars, is it ok?”

Alright!

I had nothing to lose so I tried, but it seems the [30% Discount] works when the other party is a merchant.

Three gold coins in addition to silver and copper ones are taken out to pay.

The aunty hands over the keys to the house.

Since there’s no furniture or bed, today we’ll return to the Vale pavilion.

From the Adventurer’s Guild in Quratar, we jump to the now rented house.

The contract starts tomorrow, but it probably isn’t a problem.

“Wasn’t it said that this house used shielding cement?”

After I leave the Chinese wok in a suitable place nearby, Roxanne says that.

What are you saying?

“Yes. I tested if it could be used properly. Even if [Field Walk] can’t be used, my [Warp] is ok.”

If I couldn’t use [Warp] we wouldn’t have made the contract.

“Eh? …That’s so wonderful.”

“I wonder.”

If it’s present Japan, one could commit as many times as one wanted the perfect crime of a sealed room murder case.

Whether this world’s banks have things like safe deposit boxes or not, it might be desirable to investigate.

Although I wouldn’t do it.

How should I put it, if I couldn’t use [Warp] because of the shielding cement, did Roxanne plan on walking from here to the labyrinth or the Adventurer’s Guild every time?

Well that could very well be.

Or, would it work from the wall beside the entryway?

It is outside the house. That would be a bother, but…

Am I being too lazy?

Once you try travel magic, traveling by foot is troublesome.

One big reason a house was rented is because I had to walk from Vale pavilion to the Adventurer’s Guild each time.

With my own house, I can [Warp] without fearing what anyone could think. It’s extremely comfortable.

We warp from our house to the Adventurer’s Guild in Vale.

It’s evening in the town of Vale.

It feels like Quratar is located a bit further west.

After paying the fee for a single night, we enter the room.

Once I sit down on the bed, soon after Roxanne sits beside me.

Is it because I had ordered her to do that?

I’m happy that Roxanne sat beside me, but somehow I feel guilty.

Moreover, pushing her down is out of the question.

I feel like redoing everything from the start.

There's no helping it, I'll have to endure it for a while.

We do equipment maintenance and after finishing our meal, we go up to the room again.

"Well then, we'll wash your body. Get undressed."

"That's no good. Washing master comes first."

However, enduring until now, I was met with rejection!

Time is too precious to waste arguing. I take off all my clothes and get washed.

Afterwards I wash her enough.

Wash her I do.

I wash her to my heart's content till exhaustion.

From behind, I position my hands to the front. I wipe clean those sublime and beautiful sacred mountains.

Diligently. Carefully. Delicately.

So that I don't leave a single micron uncleansed.

So that I don't leave a single picogram of dirt.

Many times. Many times over. Again and again.

To one's heart's content. Until one's heart grows tired.

I'm satisfied.

Well, immediately after, I'd get even more satisfied…

The next morning, while it is still dark, we enter the labyrinth in Vale. After breakfast, we start the move.

With the Inn's room and the house connected by [Warp], the case containing the maid uniform and Roxanne's rucksack packed with things are moved into the house.

With half the body through, it is a strategy to transfer only the luggage with a single [Warp].

Seems the case and luggage are handled ok, a success without incident.

Vacating the Vale pavilion, we change residences.

In Quratar, arrangements are made to buy the minimum furniture such as a bed, table, chairs, cupboard, closet, cookware, cleaning implements, daily necessities, and other essential goods.

The furniture store people seem to bring them to the house in a cart.

All the furniture is second hand goods, but the bed's mattress seems to have been replaced with a brand new one, so there's no problem with that.

We make many trips with [Warp] between the Adventurer's Guild in the town center and the new house.

That alone is a single day's work.

Incidentally, carpets are high-class items, so in Quratar they aren't being sold.

Are they obtained from peddlers? Seems like I must go to the Imperial Capital.

"Well then, I'll be going to draw water."

I am told by Roxanne after she returns from buying water jugs.

As expected, doesn't she understand?

"There's no problem producing water with magic."

"Is that alright? But I heard it's considerably difficult to use magic."

"It'll be alright if Roxanne helps me."

"Err. What should I do?"

Taking out Durandal, we jump into the labyrinth.

Without even opening the entranceway, one can go to the work place. It's really convenient.

"Well, search for demons."

From repeatedly using [Warp] since the morning, I feel a little depressed.

I guess I used too much MP.

"Yes. Then, can I borrow my equipment?"

"We're only hunting one or two, so…"

"That's no good. We don't know what can happen in the labyrinth. One must diligently get prepared."

By Roxanne's urging, I wear the leather cap and leather gloves.

So bothersome.

With Durandal, I slaughter the two Minos that Roxanne finds. MP is restored.

Roxanne is seriously convenient.

After returning, in the second floor room with drainage, four water jugs are lined up. Above them I create a [Water Wall].

Using magic once, enough water is collected that the jugs are not completely full, but more than half full.

The efficiency is not too good, but there's no helping it.

Just past noon the furniture is delivered, it becomes a little bit more like a real home.

It now looks like somewhere someone could live in.

One room in the second floor is chosen as the bedroom and we both carry the bed.

The closet is placed in another room, because it's awfully tasteless.

Right in the middle of the spacious room without any wallpaper, one

bed is placed.

Roxanne prepares the sheets and quilt covers and spreads out a mat besides the bed, and it seems to have more or less become a bedroom.

“Of course, what should be done first, I think, is ascertaining the quality of the bed. How about it?”

I ask while lightly embracing Roxanne.

“Eh? Y-yes…unh.”

Receiving confirmation, our mouths cover each other.

Gently, my tongue is inserted and it is accepted. Seems there’s no misunderstanding.

I lay her on the bed; we test the quality.

Of course, testing out the bed is the best.

How was the customer’s experience? It’s impossible to know.

After that, we both make dinner.

Since there was no time, we didn’t go to Quratar’s labyrinth.

We only have some conversation.

Quratar’s labyrinth has existed since extremely ancient times. How big is it? Since nobody has defeated the boss in the top floor, it’s still unknown.

Generally, once a labyrinth grows to 50 floors, the entrance appears as if it is luring people.

Afterwards, while digesting the people, it slowly grows.

The record for highest floor reached for the labyrinth in Quratar is the 91st floor.

In addition to the legendary accomplishment of the first emperor’s party being recorded, at the present time for reaching the 80th floor, one would be marked down as top-class.

To some extent, there's some pattern, but what kinds of demons appear on each floor differs for each labyrinth.

In Quratar's labyrinth, it is Kobolds on the 1st floor, Naive Olive on the 2nd, and Spy Spider on the 3rd.

Because Kobolds, being weak, are suitable for beginners, Quratar's labyrinth's 1st floor is a popular destination for people new to labyrinths.

What's more, I am taught while Roxanne is cooking.

Roxanne is making a vegetable stew in the stockpot; I'm frying meat in the Chinese wok.

Only the flavor isn't to the extent that you wouldn't eat it.

The vegetable stew might need to be boiled longer, but without a gas cooker, it isn't realistic to cook for a long time in this kitchen using firewood.

Someone needs to be constantly watching in front of the fire, in which case, one can't go to the labyrinth.

In other words, I need to put more effort into the fried meat dish.

Because it's our first day, it's inevitable to speak of what can't be helped.

It seems we should look for various seasonings and spices.

In this world, most likely it's a privilege of the wealthy class to employ a good chef that can cook delicious food all day long.

There are no artificial flavorings, solid dashi stock, or powdered soup base.

After dinner, the sun has set by the time I am boiling hot water.

In the middle of dim light, I wipe Roxanne's body.

"There's a candle but…"

"There's no candle stand."

Seems a set of candles, candle stand, and candle extinguisher are something necessary.

I didn't know.

Certainly, there's no way to stick the candles up like on a cake.

"It would have been good if we had bought them today."

"I'm sorry. Because candles aren't something cheap, I thought they weren't necessary."

Well, I'm able to enjoy Roxanne's bouncy chest without relying on my vision.

Their substantial mass is conferred to my palms.

Without rushing to conclusions, it feels like they'll spill over.

Softly and smoothly they bounce back against the hands I'm wiping with.

Actually, without relying on vision, I concentrate all sensitivity into my palms.

Maybe because there's no illumination she doesn't feel embarrassed; I am washed from the front too.

Testing the sensation of using the bed during the daytime is irrelevant.

There's more room for nighttime dessert.

Chapter 39 - Map.

It is comfortable to wake up while embracing Roxanne and to savor the pleasant feeling of Roxanne dozing in my arms.

“M…”

And when I wake up, it’s the best to receive a kiss from Roxanne.

The soft and sweet kiss of Roxanne. To gradually wake up while being able to wriggle my tongue and after having sucked Roxanne’s mouth, I let go of her lips slowly.

“Good morning, Master.”
“Good morning, Roxanne.”

I open my eyes, but it’s pitch-black. Including the equipment, all of the clothes have been placed on the mats besides the bed. The wisdom of life. I get dressed in the dark, only relying on the sense of touch.

I cannot neglect to go to the labyrinth and it’s not like I have other things to do. No, I have things to do but I chose not to; that is why.

If it’s only 1 day I think a break is necessary some times. I can spend 24 hours in bed with Roxanne without anyone bothering me. I want a loose life filled with lasciviousness, but I can’t stop now.

At least let’s kiss again. I draw Roxanne close before warping. I snatch and suck Roxanne’s tongue.

Roxanne moans lightly, but she doesn’t refuse. When I bite Roxanne’s tongue lightly with my lips, Roxanne wriggles her tongue around in my mouth.

I talk with Roxanne while eating after coming back from Vail’s labyrinth.

“These boiled vegetables are quite good.”
“Thank you very much. The ham and eggs are very delicious, too.”

Breakfast was some bread I bought with some leaf vegetable that Roxanne boiled and some eggs and ham that I cooked. It is a very simple dish; the vegetables were boiled with salt and some vinegar while the eggs and ham were baked. Even though it is simple, it doesn't taste bad. Or is it that it can't taste bad since it is simple? Because it is difficult to control the boiling temperature and make a stew, we should cook this type of dishes.

"This bread is better after all."

The 2 Nars bread from yesterday's dinner was dry and didn't taste good. That is not something a stingy person should say. Today's bread, which I bought on my way back from the labyrinth, is 8 Nars and Roxanne and I each eat half.

"But, is it all right for me to eat the same thing?"
"Since we have to enter the labyrinth, we have to invest in our body."
"Thank you very much! I'll do my best."

1 egg is 5 Nars, and we ate 1 egg each, the ham was sliced from a 100 Nars smoked ham and is roughly 15 Nars for each person so about 30 Nars for two people altogether. The leaf and the dessert of boiled greens when put together with the stew from yesterday's diner is a pile of several Nars.

I think it is a meal which is classified as a luxury in this world. Even the ham, because it is only good if it is baked, salt, and spices, are high class articles.

Although the quantity is quite good, I am getting used to 2 meals a day. Breakfast after the sun rises and dinner before the sun sets. Because I have some free time before breakfast, I feel really hungry.

I don't intend to compromise a meal. The difference in average height between a modern Japanese and a Japanese in the EDO period is about 20 centimeters. Since there is no difference in DNA, you can see the importance of nutrition. And I don't have to think about gaining weight since I enter the labyrinth, there are no sweets, and I eat 2 meals a day.

"Today I'd like to go to Quratar's labyrinth."

I talk about my plan while eating.

“Of course.’’
“After, I’d like to do something about the tasteless room.’’

After all, there is just some furniture.

“I think we should display a carpet.’’
“Display a carpet?’’
“Yes.’’
“Not spread it on the floor?’’
“Yes.’’

According to Roxanne, to spread a carpet on the floor is something only rich people do. It seems like they use a carpet as a tapestry at an ordinary house. Difference in culture? Oh, because there isn’t wallpaper in this world, it would be a good decoration.

“We can get carpets at the imperial capital. Have you been to the imperial capital, Roxanne?’’
“Unfortunately, I haven’t. I would like to clean the house so how about you go in the meantime?’’
“Then I can go to the imperial capital in the morning and go to Quratar’s labyrinth in the afternoon.”
“Certainly.”

To be able to warp inside Quratar’s labyrinth, I must go inside once. I should warp near the entrance when I return from the imperial capital.

After breakfast, I warp to the adventure’s guild in the imperial capital. I wander around the Imperial capital, looking at what kind of stores there are and where they are. The Imperial capital is large and there are all kinds of shops here and there.

Because in Quratar, almost all the shops are for explorers, there aren’t that many kinds of products. It is centered on shops that buy equipment and drop items. Like I though, it seems like a lot of shops and products gather in the imperial capital.

I found the carpet shop, clothes shop, and the seasoning shop. I didn’t buy anything, just looked. When I buy something, I should

come with Roxanne.

And, I don't know if it is coincidence or not, but I just saw 1 shop which seems to be expensive. In the clothes shops, there is a huge difference between the high quality clothes which are comparable to Ginza boutique of the imperial capital and the ones in Quratar. Obviously, it seems expensive.

The inside is spacious and even though it is the inside, there are steps and some steps rise; there is a mat spread at the entrance. The fabric is put at the back exclusive for Haute couture.

I don't know if it is because it is the imperial capital or the adventure's guild is around the corner, but there are only high-class shops. Well thanks to that, I found a shop that sells high-quality carpets.

Because I bought all kinds of things yesterday, there isn't much money left over. There are 2 coins of gold, but there are less than 100 silver coins.

On the way back from the capital, I go to the knight's office and pay a silver coin for the entrance fee.

"How about the labyrinth's conquest map too?"

The capture map of the Quratar's labyrinth was sold in the knight's office too. It is the business of many knights. On the stand, there are some brown poor papers lined up. The map seems to be some simple arrows written on the paper.

"Each level's capture map is 20 Nars a piece, 1 booklet that has all the levels is 1000 Nars, and if you want a nicely done book of parchment, it is 20,000 Nars."

For now, 20,000 Nars is too much and buying the booklet would be cheaper than buying 1 map at the time because level 91 shouldn't be captured yet; I don't know if the booklet has 91 or 90 pages.

However, it is a dirty and weak piece of paper either way you see it. It may crumble to pieces in a very little time. It may be just a waste even if I buy a booklet. Should I buy the booklet or buy 1 at the

time?

“This booklet too.”

I decide to get the booklet. When I start buying maps from level 1, it may be suspicious. It will be strange that I keep buying maps, but I don’t go in the labyrinth. Let’s just hope that if we keep it properly it won’t be ruined immediately.

“Let’s see… that would be 11 silver coins in total.”

Says the knight while looking worried. The [30% Discount] doesn’t seem to work though if I do to the knight what I do to the vendors, it’ll be serious.

Added to the admission fee, I pay the 11 silver coins and go to the entrance of the labyrinth. There was an explorer guide at the entrance too.

The explorer who guides you in the labyrinth of Quratar seems to be highly ranked since he is person who conveys the achievements of the first emperor. Although there isn’t a party who can break through level 90, you can go to level 91. This is because it has been passed between explorer guides.

If you pay the explorer, he may take you to the level you want to go, but because it may be necessary in the future, I enter level 1. I enter the labyrinth, following the party before me. The inside is no different from the labyrinth close to the town of Vail; it is the familiar and tasteless cave.

The only difference is that there are a lot of people in Quratar’s labyrinth. There are people everywhere. Can I hunt like this? Even as I keep advancing, there are people.

In a place where there are few people, I cast warp to return home. As long as people doesn’t find out that I don’t have to use the incantation, there isn’t a problem since there is nothing strange if an explorer uses dungeon walk.

“I’m back, Roxanne.”
“Welcome back, Master.”

When I enter home, Roxanne greets me. She stops cleaning and bows.

If she wore her maid cloths with this, it would be perfect. Well since they were expensive clothes, she doesn't wear them while actually working.

"Did you learn to greet like that in the merchant office at Vail?"

Roxanne's behavior is excellent. It wouldn't be possible without being taught by someone. Since the time she spends with the slave merchant may not be a pleasant memory, I don't want her to recall too much.

But this time I dare to ask because it may be necessary information when I buy the next slave.

"Yes, that is right. Is it strange?"
"No. It is wonderful."

Like I thought, she learned it from the slave trader. I get near her and pat her dog ears.

"Yes. Thank you very much."
"I went to Quratar's labyrinth and it is full of people"

I change the topic immediately.

"Since you can easily get a capture map and there are a lot of people, there is no danger of you finding a room where a lot of demons spawn and because there are a lot of people killing demons, there are many magic crystals and treasure chests. Even if you have to pay, there are more benefits."
"I understand that since a lot of demons are killed, there are many magic crystals. But why treasure chests?"

The magic crystals are the collection of magic power that comes from demons when killed and if there is a lot of people, then more demons are killed and more magic crystals are made.

"I was told that the contents of a treasure chest are the equipment of a person who got defeated by a demon."

Mmmm. This is an awkward conversation. That was brutally frank.

If there are many people, then there are many who are killed. Therefore there are a lot of treasure chests and because of that, more people gather for the treasure chests.

“But there are too many people, how do we hunt?”
“Because Quratar’s labyrinth is considerably large, the deeper you go, the less people there are. Besides, the first floor has a lot of beginners because more people are safer.”
“Is that so?”
“If we go higher, we would see less people. Or you can hunt in the middle of the night when there are less people.”

I could hunt in daytime if I go to the other side of the planet. Doesn’t anyone come from such a place? Maybe the distance you can travel with field walk is limited.

“Then we will go to Quratar’s labyrinth tomorrow morning. Do you want to go to Vail’s labyrinth today?”
“As you wish.”

After that, I go to Vail’s labyrinth to replenish the water she used for cleaning. After returning, I use water magic, but it’s not enough. The water is used for almost everything, for dinner, for the toilet, and for bathing before sleeping.

“Sorry. Please help me a little.”

Because I teleported to the fourth floor of Vail’s labyrinth, I used a considerable amount of MP. When advancing according to Roxanne guidance, we find a group of 1 green caterpillar and 2 minos. Because it is troublesome if the green caterpillar fires its thread, I kill it first.

As for the minos, Roxanne keeps them occupied. While I think that, 1 of them aims for me with its horn.

I try to avoid in a hurry, but I couldn’t. My left hand’s forefinger, which was holding Durandal, is caught between the horn and Durandal.

IT HUUURRTS!!!

It is so painful that tears come out unconsciously. A vital spot was hit. It makes a JinJin sound.

As retaliation, I put all of my mind to kill the 2 minos. It took eight hits. I get it; it is bad to get careless.

Because I was going to hunt only a little, I didn't wear the leather gloves. I had handed the leather mittens to Roxanne and I was too lazy to wear 1 myself.

I still have the magic crystal in my item box although this can't be helped since I used the points from [Crystal Acceleration] and [Increased experience rate] to use Durandal. Because I still don't understand well enough the [Required experience] value yet, I decided not to play with it.

For example, if we need to kill 20 demons to rise 1 level. When the necessary experience value is at 1/10, then I need 2 demons to rise 1 level. Then what will happen when I kill a demon without putting points in necessary experience value and after that, I kill a demon with the necessary experience value at 1/10? Or the other way too. If I kill a demon with the necessary experience value at 1/10 and after that, I kill a demon without the necessary experience value, will my level rise?

I understand it to some extent, but it is hard to know for certain. I don't know how the experience value of the demons on the second floor differs from the demons on the first.

I can't remove Durandal while experimenting so I need to use weapon rank six. This means that I don't have enough spare bonus points for increased experience and decreased required experience. This means I may end up hunting dozens or hundreds of demons to do an experiment.

But is there any reason to experiment with it?
Is there any meaning in experimenting with it? If I kill 20 demons and my level increases, and then kill another demon with required experience set to 10%, my level probably won't go up. Isn't that enough information for now?

It’s probably a waste to fight without decreasing my required experience by as much as possible.

We go back to the house from the labyrinth. I still have on my mind the pain of my finger. Probably because of my lack of experience, I underestimated the labyrinth and there was an opening. It would be a good lesson that the labyrinth is a fearful place.

It looks like my finger would be all right for the time being. Because of the pain, it may have caused internal bleeding, but it would be cured with the HP absorption of Durandal.

“Something wrong?”

Roxanne asks me as I look at my finger.

“It just grazed me a little.”
“Are you ok?”

She seems relatively worried. Although the one who was wrong is me since I didn’t listen to Roxanne’s advice of wearing leather gloves.

“It is not all right. Could you lick it a little?”

I hold out my forefinger before Roxanne’s eyes.

“E…Oh. Ano…”

Roxanne seems to be puzzled, but she doesn’t particularly refuse. She seems to be fine with it. Thinking that, I bring my finger close to her mouth.

Roxanne opens her lips. Her light pale pink lips expand the gap slowly. The crimson content is exposed. A sexy bright red tongue.

Roxanne brings her face close to my finger and closes her lips. My forefinger is fully wrapped in a fluffy feeling. It is moistened, warm and soft. A fleshy tongue wraps my finger and twines gently.

Roxanne closes her eyes and sucks on my finger. Roxanne’s chestnut eyelashes are long and there is too many to count, probably because she is from a wolf tribe. Although it isn’t to the

extent to say that I'm bewitched, it is splendid. This is the aim of an adult woman who uses make-up lightly.

I do not move my finger and leave it to Roxanne. Roxanne's tongue goes back and forth around my finger several times. It is rubbed and gently twines. And my finger is healed in her mouth which is calm and full of affection.

Once again, she opens her light pale pink lips and I can see the inside of her crimson mouth. And with a white thread between my finger and her palates, she is moving her tongue and tasting my finger. Roxanne's face moves away slowly.

I barely endure the feeling of wanting to chase her mouth. I really want to chase it. Roxanne, I really want to kiss you.

"U-Umu. The pain went away. Thank you."

Roxanne turns her face away embarrassed.

"Is this some kind of skill?"
"No. It is different."
"Even though it is amazing, almost like healing magic."
"I don't think there is such a thing."
"No, it is amazing. If there is anything from now on, I'll be counting with you."
"…A-Ano… Yes"

I praise her until she finally accepts to do it again. You did a wonderful thing. Although I had a painful experience because of my carelessness, with this I'm even or rather I end up better. The advantage of an injured person.

Chapter 40 - Quratar's Labyrinth

The next morning we went to Quratar's Labyrinth.
I prepared my equipment in the dark, and warped to the first floor's entrance room.
Even though I expected it to be less crowded at this time, I still saw someone straight away. Dungeon walk can be used in the entrance room so there wasn't a problem.

"Let's see. Straight ahead I think."

I showed Roxanne the capture map to double check.
The map isn't a complete map of the whole floor, it's just a breif map showing the path that leads to the second floor.
There isn't any other information on it, and the quality of the paper is rather bad.

"This is pretty bad quality."
"Well, that's how papyrus is."
"Papyrus?"
"Yes."

Oh! So this is papyrus? I learnt about it in history class.
Flimsy paper with a brownish color. Well, it's not really even paper.
It seems like it will tear really easily.
This is the first time I've seen it.

There's only writing on one side, would it tear if the back is written on?
Or is it single sided because the 90 maps are normally sold separately?

Last night I removed the first three maps from the booklet and put them in my rucksack.
The booklet has 90 pages with the capture maps up til the 90th floor.
The pages have the floor numbers written on them.
The numbers for 1 to 3 I remember from the Vale restaurant.

"There seem to be quite a lot of people."

“Especially on the first floor, there are parties entering all the time.”
“Hmmm.”
“There’s a lot of people doing long hours to make money.”

Despite the fact that it’s early there is still a considerable amount of people.
It’s comparable to the amount of people in here during the day yesterday.
The party ahead of us seems to be looking at a map as well, and is moving along about thirty meters ahead of us.
It seems I didn’t need a map.

We continue on the path indicated by the map and arrive at the boss room.
We had to walk about three times as much as I did in Vale’s Labyrinth.
It seems that Quratar’s Labyrinth is quite large.
Even though we saw numerous people we did not encounter any demons.

There were several parties in the waiting room outside the boss room.
We wait for a while and then our turn comes up.
The first floor boss is the Kobold Kampfer. Roxanne fights in the front, so it’s quite easy.
While Roxanne exchanges attacks with the enemy, I attack it from behind to weaken it with Durandal.

The second floor is quite different, there’s no people at all.
We ran into demons numerous times.
Since there isn’t anyone to see it I can freely use Durandal and magic.
The floor boss is attacked in a pincer formation with Roxanne at the front and myself at the back again.
My job is simply to attack if from behind to weaken it with Durandal.

“Isn’t there more people on the third floor than there was on the second?”
“Yes, because the second floor is still half Kobolds.”
“Ah, that makes sense.”

When you're strong enough to work your way up, the Kobold isn't worth fighting anymore.
Thus there wasn't anyone on the second floor.

"The Kobold is a weak demon for beginner's so they gather on the first floor of Quratar's Labyrinth to hunt them. The second floor isn't popular for beginners, and not popular for anyone else since it's still half Kobolds. As the Kobolds decrease more on the third floor, the amount of people increases."

We saw numerous people on the third floor, though not as many as the first floor.
Unless there's no choice we do our best so that nobody see's me using Durandal.
Against the floor boss, Roxanne still handles the front while I swing at it from behind with Durandal.

The third floor boss, the Spice Spider, leaves pepper behind.

"Oh, Pepper! I've heard that pepper is worth it's weight in gold."
"It can't possibly be that valuable."

It seems I had a strange belief.
I think it's used in a lot of meat dishes.
Well, it isn't a special item since you can get it any time from beating the Spice Spider.
It was a short lived joy.

We continued on to the fourth floor.

"How crowded is it?"
"A bit less than the third floor. If we head deeper in we should be able to fight without being seen."
"Ok, lets do that."

I didn't bring the capture map for this floor, so we won't be clearing it for now.
Even though there's capture maps for Quratar's Labyrinth and we can work our way up quickly, it isn't a good idea.
At some point we'll hit our limit.
Somewhere there's a floor we won't be able to get past and a boss

we can’t defeat at our current levels.

I don’t know where.
It could be an upper floor, or could be the fifth floor boss.
I’m sure things will become dangerous if we advance too quickly.

Roxanne continues on until there are no more people around, we find a small safety room and thus this morning’s searching is over.
We return to the house and make breakfast.

Today we are having baked shema.
Shema is something like flavoring vegetables with a herb.
We roll meat up in this and bake it.

I smack the meat with a pocket knife as a substitute for a meat cleaver.
We season the meat with Kobald Salt, and Pepper which has been crushed in a mill and then rolled with the shema.
Some olive oil was added to the pot, and the food was baked.

The olive oil is dropped by the plant demon Naive Olive from Quratar Labyrinths second floor.
The Kobald Salt comes from the Kobald, and the Pepper comes from the third floor boss’s dropped item.

The taste was rather average.
The shema is a bit spicy, and similar to the leaves of a red pepper.
It’s fine for a first try.

After breakfast we head to the clothes shop in Quratar.
Roxanne’s clothing is high quality, but it won’t last forever.
Our spare clothing is just my Jersey, and Roxanne’s Maid clothes.
The high quality boutique in the Imperial Capital isn’t necessary for our clothes.

“Should we get two sets of top and bottom clothes?”
“Is it alright? This shop sells brand new clothes.”

Roxanne asks at the entrance to the shop.
My overcoat is second hand, but second hand goods didn’t hold much interest in modern Japan.
It seems to be the opposite here with emphasis on value.

“It’s fine.”
“I think it’s common for a slave to wear second hand clothing.”

So the flow goes from nobles to commoners to slaves?
Nobles buy the brand new items, it’s sold and then commoners buy it and sell it a few times, and then slaves get it. Maybe that’s it.

“It doesn’t matter. You can choose something you like.”

I give her a nudge, and push her into the store.

Even if I say top and bottom clothes, there isn’t much variety.
A tunic for the top, and trousers for the bottom.
By the way, the tunic is put on over the head, unlike a shirt which opens up at the front.
Village women have long skirts, but all women who enter the labyrinth wear trousers.

Roxanne looks through the few types of clothes choosing carefully.
Roxanne is looking for my clothes as well.
Occasionally she holds something up to my body with a “this one?” or a “how about this?”.

When the clothes are finally bought and we leave the shop, it seems most of the day has passed us by.
Our rented house is to the east when coming from the center of town.
Even though we thought it might take half a day, it ended up taking longer.

“Thank you, Master.”
“You even found clothes for me, thank you.”

It’s worth it just to see this smile from Roxanne.
All up the clothes ended up costing 1,050 nars. It doesn’t seem especially high.

“I’d like a larger tub to wash the clothes in, is that alright?”

One the way back, Roxanne points towards the general store with wooden goods displayed.
When one thing increases it’s necessary for something else to

increase as well.

“That’s fine.”

Upon entering the store there are tubs and basins displayed to one side.
Roxanne picks out a large tub and passes it to me.

“Welcome!”
“This tub, is it the largest you have?”

When a worker comes over, I ask him while showing the tub that is a bit under a meter in diameter.
This general store has a wood craftsman in the back processing the wood.
If it’s here, “that” may be available.

“Something can be custom made.”
“That’s fine?”
“We even cater to nobles. If there’s a large amount of cloth to wash we can make something.”
“I’d like to request something.”

What do I want? A bathtub.
Since we managed to rent a house after many trials, next I’d somehow like to get a bathroom.

There doesn’t seem to be a custom of people taking baths, unless they are rich.
Water is fetched, and a heating fire is made, and it’s quite costly.
I don’t know if there are any hot springs, but I don’t think so in this climate.

Even in Japan I mainly used a shower.
Only sometimes would I get the desire to use a bath.

It’s different now, my circumstances have changed.
If I get in the bath now, Roxanne would follow.
Roxanne would be together with me in the bath.

Since Roxanne will join me, I really want a bath.
I’d really like to bathe with Roxanne.

Roxanne would wash me, and then we'd soak in the bath.
Mmmmmm.
There is no choice, I need a bath built.

By any means, it is necessary to build a bath.
It is absolutely necessary to make it.
Did I remember to say it's necessary?
Ok, it's time to do this.

But, how do I make one?
That's the problem.

No bathtubs were seen in the furniture dealer or other shops of Quratar.
The old lady said I could change the interior of the house without needing to get permission, but I also need to find someone to do the work.

Even though I can make water and fire with magic, I can't reveal that.
Water comes from the well or the river, and it can be boiled on a fire with brushwood but that's normally quite expensive.
Will they think I'm a bath lover or something?

I can ask around, and a boiler isn't necessary.
I've already verified that I can heat water with fireball.
I don't need them to make something unnecessary, but how do I decline it?

Can an DIY amateur make a bathtub?
I considered it, but I'm sure I'll need a craftsman.
You never know what you can do until you try though.

"You can see our merchandise, I think we can make something without problem."
"I see."
"How big were you thinking?"
"If possible I'd like something with a bit more diameter than the height of a person."

I imagine Katsushika Hokusai's picture.

“We can do that, is the regular depth fine?”
“Yes, it’s fine like this.”

I point at the tub with the deepest size.
I didn’t refer to the purpose because asking for something strange would have been suspicious.
The depth is around 50cm.
The bottom is thick, so maybe it’s a little shallower?

The purpose is not just to take a bath, but to get in with Roxanne.
It should be a reasonable size.
It has to be wide, but shallow isn’t bad.
I’ve heard that a deep bath isn’t good for your heart.

“Hmm… Well, how about 2,000 nars?”

After the workman thinks about it for a while, he presents a price.
It’s a lot cheaper than I thought.
Well, the other tubs are 20 nars and 100 nars so I guess that’s rather high in comparison.

“That’s fine.”
“Since it’s built to order it will take around five or more days. I’ll send a messenger to let you know when it’s done and we can organize to deliver it on a convenient day.”

The price seems to include delivery.
By the way, this world does seem to have addresses.
Quratar has six sections and seven districts, and the address of the house I’m renting is 123.

That’s fine, I’ll also get this.”
“Thank you, that’s 50 nars.”

I show the wash tub that Roxanne picked out.
Since the worker has the job of villager my 30% discount doesn’t apply.

“A large tub, what will you use it for?”
“You can look forward to finding out.”

Since Roxanne is holding the clothes, I carry the tub back to the house.
After returning to the house we change into the clothes we just bought.

“I’ll wash the clothes.”
“Yes. Since we took a lot of time in town today we’ll have a break from the Labyrinth for today.”
“Ok, then I’ll do the cleaning with my spare time.”

It’s fine since we were in the Labyrinth before sunrise.
Since I made water for washing, cleaning, cooking and bathing, I ended up having to go to the Labyrinth twice for MP recovery.
I’m a little worried about filling the bathtub now.

“I’ll prepare dinner now, we are having white stew.”
“What is white stew?”
“You haven’t had it?”
“No.”
“Well you can look forward to it then.”

I should be able to make white stew with the ingredients from this world.
First, you cook round slices of meat in a pan with some wine and water.
You let it stew for 30 minutes.

In this world you get wine and milk by taking a bottle to the shop.
This world doesn’t have any carton’s or PET bottles.

Next, the vegetables that Roxanne used for the vegetable stew were added and cooked with a low flame for a bit.
The spring onion is good to remove any bad smells from the meat, but spring onions are poisonous to dogs.
I checked with Roxanne to make sure there were no vegetables she wasn’t able to eat.
It’s the same vegetables that Roxanne was using on her own, so there shouldn’t be any problems.

The white roux is made while cooking.
Butter is put in the wok and some flour is fried.

Then milk goes in and everything cooks on low heat until it thickens up.

I did the white roux rather well.
I can probably make cream croquette's and clam chowder with this.
The gratin would be hard since it burns with the oven.

I put the white roux with some leaf vegetables to give it a green color.
Finally I add some salt and pepper for taste.
Success!
Roxanne quite liked the taste as well.

"Master, it's very delicious."

I want to say don't talk while you have white stuff in your mouth.

Chapter 41 - Treasure Chest

While I was waiting for the tub to be completed, I continued searching through the Labyrinth and finally found the fourth floor boss room.
It's helpful to have Roxanne while searching, but it's still not easy.
Even if we know the direction of a demon we sometimes have to backtrack the way we came.
Demons can be hidden by doors which hides their smell too, this also makes us walk back and forth a bit.

Should I prioritize exploring or hunting?
Vale's Labyrinth is different to Quratar's where the only time you won't see other people is the early morning.
Quratar's Labyrinth has a map so it isn't necessary to explore it, however there is the chance to find magic crystals and treasure chests so exploring to some degree is necessary.

After finding the fourth boss in Vales Labyrinth, I feel I've started to become familiar with how each floor is layed out.
The boss of the fourth floor is a demonic cow similar to the Mino.
Roxanne will attack from the front, and I'll attack with Durandal from the back.
As I think about it, I find myself worried that there might be a back kick that we don't know about.

I attack it indiscriminately.
A slash to the right flank, and then a slash to the left flank, I attack it over and over.

We destroyed a frightening enemy, and then moved on the the fifth floor.
The first thing Roxanne found is a Mino Lv5.
I attack it with Durandal once, but it isn't defeated.

Durandal killed everything in a single blow on the fourth floor.
The only job I have equipped to improve my strength is Hero, I mainly use jobs for extra intellect.

After a second swing, it's defeated.

I put Durandal away, and Roxanne finds a Cheep Sheep.
This demon appears on the fourth floor of Quratar's Labyrinth, but in Vale it appears on the fifth floor.
Even if it looks like a sheep, it still looks quite ferocious.
It also has horns.

As I feared, even though I used three fireballs, it was not enough to defeat it.

It can't be helped I guess.
It moves sideways, and Roxanne moves to counter it. I shoot a fireball at it from an angle and it's defeated.
When we encounter three of them at once it will be quite dangerous.

With Roxanne's help we can try to avoid groups of three, but it's hard to tell the size of the groups from smell so we can't avoid them completely.
I'll be embarrassed if we have to run away, so I'm trying to think ahead.

If it's a group with Kobolds then it shouldn't be a problem, Kobolds are easy to pick off even if there are three.
The Kobold Lv5 can be defeated in two spells.

Like Roxanne said, she couldn't notice groups of multiple demons.
We came across a Mino and a Cheep Sheep.
She elegantly dodged them by a hair's breadth.

"Roxanne's movements are amazing. Should I try to copy them? Or is it too hard for me to copy?"
"I think Master can do it to some point."

I'm aware of my own skills.
Roxanne's opinion might not be right.

We came across a group of three. A Cheep Sheep, a Mino and a Green Caterpillar.

"Roxanne, get ready."

To start off I use three [Fire Storm].
As soon as I use the third one the Mino is on top of us.
The Cheep Sheep and Green Caterpillar are also near.

Roxanne parries the Mino's horn with the Scimitar.
Despite the parry she manages to get in a blow as well.
I block the horn of the Cheep Sheep with the wand.

"It's coming!"

Roxanne yells a warning.
Glancing sideways I can see an orange magic formation underneath the Green Caterpillar.
It's about to spit thread.

I don't worry about it.
I use a fourth [Fire Storm] without moving.
If the Green Caterpillar is defeated then the thread will not appear.

My [Fire Storm] starts at the same time as the Green Caterpillar shoots its thread and Roxanne jumps back to avoid it.
It sprays it all around our area and a little of it gets on me.

All three demons are defeated simultaneously.
They all become smoke, and the thread melts away as well.

"Urgh. The Green Caterpillar is troublesome because of this."

I let out a breath, and lower my wand.

"Yes. It finds a position where it can aim at two people."

Roxanne is about a meter behind me.
The thread doesn't seem to have worked on her.
Did she avoid it all?

"Even if he shoots thread, you can avoid it?"
"Well, the demon was defeated before it finished shooting it's thread. If it went on longer it would have been harder to avoid."

If I jump back a meter I can try to avoid it too.

"So on the fifth floor if I shoot off four spells it will be the same time

as thread being shot."
"Yes, and if Master can handle one then I think we can fight three easily."

I was worried when we fought two demons earlier, but we even managed to defeat a group of three.
Looks like we'll be able to keep fighting on the fifth floor.

Since we can fight on Vale's fifth floor, we should try the fifth floor of Quratar's Labyrinth as well.
The following morning we use the map of the fourth floor to go to the boss room.

Beep Sheep Lv4.

This seems to be the boss of Quratar's fourth floor.
Baa Baa. It's noisy like a normal sheep.
I've become used to seeing their ferocious looking faces.

The front with the horn is left to Roxanne.
I move to the side and attack it with Durandal.
An orange magic formation appears near it's feet.
I attack the sheep with Durandal, and the spell is interrupted.

"What skill does the Beep Sheep have?"
"I don't know."

I ask Roxanne, but she doesn't seem to know.
I don't think it will be string like the Green Caterpillar.
Even though I can stop the string with Fire Wall, there isn't a way to counter a skill I don't know about.
Durandal has the incantation interruption skill at least.

Near where I attacked with Durandal, the sheep bends it's front legs.
A kick from the rear leg comes at me.
I jumped back a lot to avoid the kick.

Being hit by that kick could put a hole right through me.
If I watch carefully I can manage to avoid it.

The same way that Roxanne avoided the string, I was now a meter back.

The Beep Sheep doesn't come after me.
The orange magic formation appears at it's feet again.

Dangerous.
I raise Durandal as I charge in panicking.
I'm an idiot.

The purpose of the Beep Sheep's attack was to buy time to use it's skill.
Since I jumped back so far I've given it an opportunity.
I've been caught off-guard.

Even though I swing Durandal, I'm not in time.
Using [Overwhelming] might not be enough either.
There's a "Baa Baa" from the sheep like a warning sound.

…
……
……

Gah. TN Babel Fish translated this sound effect ぐおっ as "To prevent your boobs."

Suddenly I was pushed away by the Beep Sheep.
I stagger two or three steps, but manage to hold on somehow.
What happened?

Roxanne seems to have been attacked.
She's holding her stomach.

Instantaneous movement?
Or a AoE attack?

"What happened…"

The Beep Sheep uses a head butt, but I manage to block it with Durandal.
It wouldn't be good to be hit by the horn.

The first attack seems to have hit the Leather armor.
It's pretty good.
Though there's the chance it might pierce through it.

“I don’t understand, I suddenly was hit with an attack.”

I dodged the sheep’s attack, and used Durandal to make a chance.
In the moment between attacks from the Beep Sheep, I looked to Roxanne and used [Medical Treatment].
I can use Durandal to heal, but Roxanne doesn’t have that option.
Since her level is low, I try to prioritize healing Roxanne.

“I was attacked suddenly as well.”
“Master didn’t move for a little while.”
“I didn’t move?”
“Right, like sleeping.”

Ah.
Beep Sheep’s skill might be a technique to put it’s enemies to sleep or make them faint.
After the warning sound I lost consciousness.
When I was attacked I finally woke up.
That’s why it feels like I was suddenly attacked.

“The enemy has a sleep skill.”
“Yes, I think that’s it.”

When it uses that skill, it will be able to attack you.
I can’t let it use that skill a lot.
I try to stick close to the demon to attack it at any time.

How much damage has Roxanne suffered? I don’t know.
Even for my own damage I only have a rough sense of how much it is.
Should I use healing three times?

After fighting back and forth a bit, the sheep changes it’s position.
It points it’s horn towards me.
Does it think I am easier to deal with?

I block it’s horn with my sword, and then land an attack.
It attacks with it’s horn again and I frantically move my arms back to block the attack.

The Beep Sheep spins around, and prepares to launch a kick.
I lean back greatly and manage to avoid it, I don’t want to end up in

the same situation as before.

Roxanne is also attacking, but there won't be large amounts of damage from the Scimitar.
The sheep prepares again, and launches a kick at Roxanne.
She easily avoids it, and manages to slash at the leg while it's stretched out.

Her movements flow well when attacking the enemy.
The base of her body isn't moved, and she sways in a relaxed manner.
Since she dodges it closely, she won't be too far away to attack it.

This is in comparison to me, who jumped back a long way and gave the enemy a chance.
Even though I was cautious and rushed straight back in I still couldn't attack fast enough.

I deflect the horn, and finally manage to land a blow.
The Beep Sheep's head moves to the right, and then swings with strong momentum.

I could read it's attack, and lent back to avoid the swing.
Then I swung Durandal at it's neck because I saw an opening.
Durandal tears up it's soft neck.

Finally the demon is defeated.
It becomes smoke and disappears, leaving behind an item.

"It's finally defeated? Are you okay?"
"Yes, since you used healing several times I am alright. Thank you very much."
"Even if you think there's just a little damage remaining, say so. We have to give recovering our strength top priority.
"I understand. I will do so."

With Durandal out, we move to the fifth floor.
Roxanne guides me further in.
It seems there are less people here than there were on the fourth floor, but there is still a considerable amount.

Collagen Coral Lv5.

The Collagen Coral is the demon from the fifth floor of Quratar's Labyrinth.
It is a rock type demon.
It has one leg sticking out the bottom, and approaches us while hopping.

I attack it with Durandal.
I didn't think it would be hard,but it was quite firm.
Is it a rock like it's appearance?
No, it's not a rock, it's coral?
Since it didn't get defeated in a single blow, I strike again and defeat it.

Coral gelatine.

It vanishes in smoke and an item remains.
The item seems to be collagen..

"You can make Jelly?"
"Jelly?"
"Oh, don't worry about it."

I asked Roxanne about it, but it seems to be different.

"The coral gelatin is an adhesive. The adhesive strength appears when you dissolve it in hot water. You can use it to stick carpet to the wall."

Well, it seems like a convenient item.

Collagen Coral Lv5 can't be defeated with three spells.
It doesn't lay around or roll, and instead hops when it approaches.
Roxanne takes a stance and blocks it.
She dodged a pounce, and I launch a fourth [Fire Ball] where it landed.

"It has a pounce."
"Yes, and with the bouncing it was difficult to work out the timing."

We avoided it magnificently in comparison to the animal who kicks out it's leg. The foot of the Collagen Coral doesn't bend.
It's movements are hard to understand though.

“We’ll get used to it.”
“Yes, I think it will be safe when we become accustomed to it.”

I don’t have a safe feeling.
The surface of the Collagen Coral is extremely rough.
If that hits me it’s going to be painful.

Still, it isn’t scarier than the Cheep Sheep which has the horn, so we charged at a group of three.
Even I can manage to dodge the pounce attack if I watch it while using the wand.
It’s best to avoid it instead of trying to block it with the wand, so when they jump up I react quickly.
It’s basically one on one though.

Lets not consider the person from the wolf tribe who is fighting two of them.
I’ll feel like I lost if I worry about it.

We advance further in with Roxanne leading the way and occasionally come to a dead end.
If you don’t check these you won’t find magic crystals or treasure chests.
We open a hidden door and a small room appears.

We enter.
It’s the usual room style, with a slightly raised center.

“Master, it’s a treasure chest.”
“Treasure chest? This?
“Yes, that’s right.”

This is a treasure chest?
Instead of a chest, the floor is just a slightly raised lump.
Roxanne didn’t hesitate, and rushed in to pierce it with the Scimitar.
Won’t there be a trap?

“Is it safe?”
“Even if it’s a mimic, there won’t be anything until it’s defeated.”

Thank you for that strong reply.
I wanted you to do it when we at least took out Durandal.

The floor is torn up with the Scimitar.
It’s possible to roll it up like a newspaper.

Equipment: Leather Bracers.

A Bracer comes out.
It’s regular equipment.

So it’s true that the items a person is wearing come out of the Treasure Chest.
After offering a silent prayer to the former owner, I take the equipment.

Chapter 42 - Bath

Within Quratar labyrinths fifth level, we came across a magic crystal.
By chance.
Collagen Coral Lv5

Collagen Coral Lv5

Magic Crystal

Cheep Sheep Lv5
The moment I was doing [Appraisal] on the demons, it also appeared.
For an instant I thought four had appeared.

First of all, The demons received 3 shots of [Firestorm].
With the wand I parried the Collagen Coral's ramming body attack and finished it off with a fourth shot.

"We should head straight back to our previous location."
"No, There is a magic crystal over there."

I stopped Roxanne when she tried to go back the way we came.
I go forward. To the area where I first saw the demons.
Half of a black magic crystal was buried and hidden in the ground.

"You found it even though it was dark and so far away, as expected of Master"
"It just happened to be near where we found the demons"
"Still it is difficult to find since the black magic crystal does not shine."

I see, so the black magic crystal doesn't shine?
There is a possibility I overlooked them until now.
I cannot make observations every single time but, will try to make better observations from now on even if it seems insignificant.

"Do the other crystals shine?"
"Yes, but they are very dim."

In the end it becomes a white magic crystal, I think it will shine.
It is certainly easier to find a shining one.

“In the case of black magic crystal, I can’t sell it until it accumulates magic?”
“Well, magic crystals are fusible.”

I hand the black magic crystal to Roxanne and she takes it.

“Fusible?”
“Yes, you push the two and they easily fuse into one.”
“I see, so the magic is not lost with the fusion?”
“It is fine.”

I carry some spare magic crystals so I don’t mind trying it to see.
After all they are 10 Nars.

I took out a green magic crystal from the rucksack.
I place the green one on the palm of my right hand and the black crystal that I found with my left hand I pile on top.
The black magic crystal sinks into the green one with no resistance at all.
It enters steadily when I push it with my hand.

Somehow, it is a comfortable feeling.
It’s not a hard nor a soft reaction, it feels like an exquisite resistance.
It resembles a feeling of crushing bubble wrap that goes into cardboard boxes.
I think it may become a habit.

“Is it like this?”

Only the green crystal remained once I finished fusing the crystals.
The magic crystal I found was black, so it didn’t even have 10 magic power in it.
At least 10,000 magic power is needed to change the colour of the green magic crystal, so it seems it didn’t have enough

We finished exploring the 5th floor by the time the bathtub was completed.
Beep Sheep who we’ve fought before is the boss of Vale labyrinth’s

5th floor.
The combination of demons and bosses appear to be the same in any labyrinth.

I must not let the Beep Sheep use a skill.
I stick close, always ready with Durandal which has the incantation interruption effect.
I don't jump back and instead block it's attack with the sword because I can't allow it to have an opportunity.
As long as the skill is prevented I can leave the front to Roxanne while I just focus on the back.

The coral demon in Quratar's labyrinth does not have a distinction between front and back, it's a bit troublesome.
But still when there are 2 people, attack frequency becomes half.
I swing Durandal around and somehow win.

"I will give back the medicine"

Roxanne lowers the rucksack.
Since I don't know what will happen, before the boss fight I handed the medicine to Roxanne.
It is something I learned from the previous boss fight.
It will be terrible if Roxanne is poisoned while I am affected by sleep.

If only the normal attacks have added effect then Roxanne can avoid them without a hitch.

"Isn't it alright to hold on to it until we see the demons from the sixth floor?"
"It's fine. Mino will appear on the sixth floor of the Quratar labyrinth."

Vail labyrinth's sixth floor demons as well as Quratar's second floor demons were Naive Olive.
If fighting demons I already fought then I feel relatively safe.
Because I can bring down Lv6 demons with 4 magic shots, I think sixth floor demons are not a problem.
I put away Durandal and the medicine and moved to the sixth floor.
The messenger from the woodshop came on the fifth day as promised.
After being told I could accept it straight away, he immediately went

back and returned with a wagon.

“Huge”

As I was waiting outside I saw the wagon in the distance and I unintentionally let a word leave my mouth.

It’s big.
The enormous round tub is put vertically on the carrying tray.
The height of the carrying tray is 1 meter and the tub is 2 meters, so about 3 meters in total.
About half of the tub was above the coachman’s head.

Since there is furniture of the similar height it probably isn’t that big, but when I consider that it’s a tub it still seems bizarrely impressive.
As the wagon approaches, I take a look and it really is big.
It really is about 2 meters.
It seems it was made according to my request, slightly taller than a person.

“Here are the ordered goods.”
“The boards are thick, it seems solid.”

The boards used are fairly thick.
The bottom boards seem to be considerably thick.

“Like this it will not break soon.”

The person employed to transport left with these words.
Like this it won’t break.
I wonder how much water I can put in.

Let’s see…
1 Litre is 1,000 cc.
Since 1 cc is 1 cubic centimetre so, 1cm x 1cm x 1cm.
So 100cm x 10cm x 1cm is 1,000cc and becomes 1 litre.
Since 1 meter is 100cm, 1 meter x 10cm x 1cm is 1 litre then 1 meter x 1 meter x 1 cm is 10 litres.
In a container size of length and width of 1 meter and depth of 1 cm can contain 10 litres of water.

Huh?

It’s way more than I thought.

Since the size of the tub is radius x radius x Pi, the diameter is 2 meters then the radius is 1 meter and Pi is 3.14. [Otka: took some liberties as the Japanese was too messy to translate word by word and make sense]
The depth is 50 cm so 3.14 meters x 50 cm x 10 litres is 1570 litres?

Let’s calm down.
Calm down.
It could be a mistake….. nope.
I recalculated but it was still the same.

1570 litres of water fit in this tub?
Since 1 litre of water is 1 kg then it’s 1570 kg.
That is approximately 1.5 tons.

It is a tremendous amount of water.
I did not think I would need a ton for daily life.
To add to that the boards are also thick.

“Fo-for now shall we carry it to the second floor?”
“Yes, Master”

Roxanne along with 2 other people bring the tub up to the 2nd floor.
No. It’s no longer a tub, it’s a bathtub.
It’s very heavy but because you can roll it it’s not unreasonable to move it.
With two people it will be easy to push up the stairs.

We put it in the room with drainage outlet on 2nd floor.
After we brought it into the room Roxanne and the two others carefully laid it down.
Since the room is about 8 tatami size, even if I put the bathtub in there, there would still be room.

“As expected it is a mansion.”
“Ermm. I wonder what is this?”
“Once you find out you will be surprised and will laugh. We will use this as a bathtub.”

I declared to Roxanne.

A paradise to go in, but hell to produce the water.
I can make 10 litres of water with one [Water Wall] so I will need to cast magic as many as 157 times to make it full.

157 times?
Moreover just to make water.
My head hurts.

“A bathtub used to take a bath?”
“That’s right. I want to get it ready straight away.”
“I understand.”

I don’t know how much time it will take.
I think I should do the preparations fast.

First I lightly wash the bathtub with water, with [Water Wall] I fill the water jars with water.
Once filled, I cast [Fireball] on the water jars to heat the water.
One [Fireball] cast makes it lukewarm water, two casts make it boiling water.

I take into consideration that while preparing the hot water will cool down, after firing two casts I empty it into the bathtub.
Before the water gets too hot I should dilute it.
Because wood is different from ceramic water jars, I shouldn’t be shooting [Fireballs] at the accumulated water in the bathtub.
It would be terrible if the fire spreads.

While filling the bathtub with hot water, when magic consumed I jump to the labyrinth to replenish it.
It’s difficult.

“Like this we will take a bath about once a week.”
“What is wunsawik?
“…Once or twice every ten days.”

While warping to the Labyrinth several times I grumbled unintentionally.
This world does not have the concept of a week.
I think according to Roxanne I am an oddball who sometimes speaks in incomprehensible language.

I am a serious weirdo.

Midway, The temperature of the bathroom started to become hotter.
It's like a sauna.
Only I enter and continue working while Roxanne is waiting outside.
Just being in there a short while covers me with sweat.

"Here"

When I walked out Roxanne handed me a towel.
I wipe off the sweat and again make a round trip to the labyrinth.
Do I want to take a bath with Roxanne this much?
I am really a pervert.

To the end, I was stubborn and collected the hot water in the bathtub.
I'm desperate.
For that reason I collected it.

It probably has been no less than 2 hours since the start of the preparations.
I also prepared some spare water in the water jars.

"Today with this much done. It is finished."

The tub is about 90% filled with hot water.
The bathroom was filled with white steam.

"Good work."
"If there's time lets go to the labyrinth once, and after dinner take a bath."

I receive a towel from Roxanne and wipe my sweat.
It will be fine for few hours since when I put my hand in it, it was still considerably hot.

"Umm, do I also partake?"
"Of course, that was my intention, but…?"

I wonder if Roxanne dislikes baths?
I want her to enter even if she dislikes it.
There is also an option of ordering her to enter.

“Only lords or nobles take baths. Also I was told to wait outside midway.”
“I told you to wait outside because inside is sultry. There was no reason for both of us to become drenched in sweat.”
“Was that the reason? I thought there was some special reason for master”

Did she think there was such a thing?
I return the towel and stroke her dog ears.

“Well special is special. Because I will enter together with Roxanne.”
“Eh. …eem-eermm”
“We will enter together.”
“Y-yes, thank you very much.”

What a relief.
It seems we will enter together.
If at the very end she had refused then I wouldn’t know for what reason I went through all the hardships.
After completing all the work for the day we enter the bath.
The water was still slightly too hot.
I create a [Water Wall] directly above the tub to cool the water.

Adjusting the temperature is difficult.
It is difficult to make fine adjustments with magic.
I put my right hand in the bathtub and stir it.
Is this good enough?

After a while I got the hang of making hot water, next I made about half the water jars into hot water using [Fireball].
I think it has become slightly easier. But really only slightly.
I wonder does it become slightly easier when the level increases?

I placed a lemon in the bathtub before dinner.
I’m not completely sure if it’s a lemon but, it was translated as lemon so I guess it is a lemon.

I’m not sure what kind of herbs to use to substitute iris leaves for bathwater. [Otka: seems putting 菖蒲湯 in bathwater is some sort of tradition in Japan since Edo times, I only had a brief look at it on Japanese Wiki about it, Google it for images if you are interested]

It would be terrible if it had a weird smell.
In case of hot citron bath, I wonder is it not possible to substitute for some other citrus fruit?

With the lemon there is a nice aroma.
Since it is edible it does not dissolve.

Roxanne placed a lantern in a hole within the room.
I take hot water and lightly rinse my body.
We both entered the bath after I washed Roxanne's body.

It feels good.

The mildly hot water surrounded my body.
I freely stretch my arms and legs out.
The size of the bathtub makes it feel like a hot spring.

Since there is no Kinoki cypress there is no mellow tree fragrance, but still it is relaxing. [Otka: 檜 – Kinoki Cypress is a type of tree that grows in Japan, seems to be water resilient, and based on what he said also releases a fragrance]
I place a towel on the edge of the tub and lay my head on it.

Roxanne also lies down.
I extended my arm and embraced her.
It feels good.

Her lean and flexible body comes close next to me.
Since she was floating I was able to easily come closer.
Our feet twine and cling together.

In the hot water Roxanne's skin is smooth.
It is softly smooth making it feel very good.

"Mmm, it's the best."
"Yes, it is a splendid feeling."

She might have gotten the wrong meaning, but if Roxanne is fine with it then it is all good.

Something brushed against my knee in the water.
It is strangely comfortable.

I stretch a hand out as I wonder what it could be.
It's a tail.

Roxanne's tail spread like water plant in the bath.
When scooping with my arm there is a soft brush impression brushing on my hand.
In the water I stroked her with my hand gently.
This is an unexpected discovery.

"Roxanne's tail feels good."
"Is that so? Thank you very much."

I stretch my hand, the tail is swinging many times.
It sways gently in the water.
The tail waves like a gentle breeze passing through.
Roxanne's tail is pleasant in the bath.

It is way better to take a bath with Roxanne that I had thought it would be.
The preparations are difficult to do every day but, once every ten- no once every week- no once every five days I want to enter.
Once every 3 days is also fine.

I moved my body and soaked my head.
The hot water soaks through the hair.
I scrubbed my head in the hot water.
I scrubbed my head several times until all the dirt was out, and then raise my head.

"It feels good. Roxanne should try it also."
"Yes"

Roxanne soaked her head in hot water.
I stretched my hands out and scrubbed Roxanne's hair.
I also washed her dog ears.

Her hair does not have the same feeling as her tail.
Still it will cling to my finger due to the moisture.

Roxanne was submerged in the water for nearly a minute.
Soon her upper body rises and the water runs down.
When she rose from the water I secretly stared at her huge

mountains that were shaking *gaburun**gaburun*.

Yup I knew it baths are great.
Baths are the best.

Chapter 43 - Rare ingredients

Weapons merchant Lv1
Effects:
Small physical strength rise.
Small intelligence rise.
Small mind rise.

Skills:
Weapon appraisal.
Item box calculation.

Armor merchant Lv1
Effects:
Small physical strength rise.
Small intelligence rise.
Small spirit rise.

Skills:
Armor appraisal.
Item box calculation.

Cook Lv1
Effects:
Small dexterity rise. (TN : in cooking skill 器用小上昇)
Small physical strength rise.
Small agility rise.

Skills:
Drop rate for rare ingredients increase.
Item box operation (TN : Not sure about this one because it's like he is always saying this : ボックス操作)

The number of jobs increased.
A weapon merchant, an armor merchant, and a cook.
To be frank, all these skills and effects are questionable.

Because I have "Judgement", both weapon merchant and armor merchant have no effective use.

At the very least, the effect, small intelligence rise, is good
I would be overjoyed if some nasty looting job existed (TN : Not sure but i think it's the meaning of this : 派生ジョブ があったりしたら 厄介なことこの上ない。)

The increase of rare ingredients drop rate should be useful.
However, I would hate if I killed a bunch of Kobold and only got Kobold salt. (TN : I would hate it too ahah.)
Would it be alright if it's not a rare drop?

Even if it's a cook job, it seems to have no useful skill to make a dish.
The last skill may be used for the labyrinth exploration?
It would be good if we can keep the ingredients in the item box.
With three jobs, I can stack up to thirty pieces of thirty different items for each job.

You may think that's it's because I'm an Explorer Lv30
But the size of the item box suddenly became 60 x 30 when I attached another job which surprised me at first.
Because my job is Lv1, the size would be fixed regardless of the level.

Kaga Michio Male 17 years old
Explorer Lv30.
Hero Lv27.
Wizard Lv29.
Monk Lv26.
Cook Lv1.
Equipment:
Leather gloves.
Leather shoes.
Leather hat.
Wand.

Roxanne Girl 16 years old
Beast warrior Lv14
Equipment :
Scimitar
Leather gloves

Leather jacket
Leather hat
Sandals
Wooden Shield.

I do a trial with the cooking job.
However, even after I beat the enemies from the six floors, they didn't drop any rare ingredients.
I don't know whether the olive oil you can buy at the guild is regarded as ingredients, but it wouldn't be rare at least.
The mino didn't drop any of it either
It's a useless cow.

I decide to push forward the search as much as I can.
Because I understood that it was troublesome to set up hot water, I decided to do it only when we took a bath or if something special come up.

Now it's a suitable time to advance to the next floor.

Thanks to me being enthusiastic the exploration of the labyrinth advanced smoothly, and the sixth floor was passed in no time.
By chance there was a room with the boss nearby.

It's troublesome, so I thought I might only fill and heat the bath at special times, but since it's hard to do it's best to plan for it.
Things don't always go the way we want.

Every floor of the Labyrinth has the same setup. There's always monsters to fight, and then a boss to defeat.
We cleared it with no problems.

Escape goat Lv7
Escape goat Lv7

The demons of the seventh floor seem to be an escape goat.

"I have heard that Escape Goat runs away. Maybe it's better not to use magic and to knock it down with your sword, Master"

Even if Roxanne warned me, I activated my magic.
It's too late anyways.

Does the goat escape according to his name?

However, the escape goat comes without running away.
Roxanne stepped forward, facing the goat.
I prepared Durandal in the meantime.

The escape goat does not look that ferocious, but it looks stern.
The goat didn't look pretty at all.
The head's horn is bigger than a cheep sheep.
It has an ominous looking upward curve.

I sneaked around to the left and let the goat meet with Durandal
I cut it right in the middle of the body but it wasn't enough to defeat him.
When it comes down to lvl7 it seem that Durandal and a shot from magic isn't enough to defeat them.

The Escape Goat holds it's head low.
As soon as it watches me moving the goat is rushing me head on.
I turned around suddenly and avoided the dash of the goat.
I did it just in time.

The goat went between Roxanne and me.
However, the demon did not stop.
As soon as he went to the other side he began to run.

Ooopps !
The escape Goat escaped.

I swing Durandal in a hurry but it couldn't reach any more.
There is no possibility to chase him in time, so i have to rely on magic.
I invoked [fire storm]
Sparks fly as my second spell is activated.

As long as I can see the demon, I can attack him.
The demon is covered in fire and falls down.
What a relief…
It seems that the amount of damage from Durandal and Magic was enough.

Roxanne is still fighting, the second one did not run away yet.

I driven in Durandal from the side.
The demon falls, It becomes smoke and it disappears.
I killed him with a single blow.

I seem to be able to knock down the escape Goat lv7 with two magic and a blow from Durandal.
The fact that it's running away is really troublesome.

The next one Roxanne found was a cheep sheep Lv7.
Because it's only one of them, i engage with a [fire ball].
I did two then three shots, while watching Roxanne keeping the front busy while avoiding the offensive coming from the sheep.
I go around the side and i shot the fourth and fifth balls.

"I'm afraid it's at least five shot from magic for a Lv7."
"I guess that's how it is for the seventh floor."

It's easy to say.
It's necessary to face the demon for a long time to knock it down.
When a fight lasts long, the number of chances the enemy has to hit also increases.

Even with Roxanne to support me, it isn't easy.
We should take the conquering of the seventh floor slowly seeing this course of events.

I tried to intercept the escape Goat who appeared in front of us with magic
When i did the third shot, it turned around and started to run.
Perhaps it doesn't run away at random, but will escape when receiving a certain amount of damage.
The conditions are : two magics are okay and the third will make him run.

Because of the physical strength it seems to have, i would need 5 emissions of magic to take it down.
After i hit it with 2 shots, i tried to shoot it again three times when it reached sword range.

It avoided the fifth fire ball.
The monster is escaping toward the back.

It is a nuisance to see him running away at the third shot.
Although, it is alright if yo uses storm type of magic.

“It is a troublesome demon”
“It doesn’t want to fight much”
“That’s right, it’s a bit annoying, but if other demons show up let’s prioritize them”

After shooting two magics, it is possible to take it out with Durandal.
I don’t want to avoid it specially and it becomes a good balance with MP and efficiency.
An extra burden is added for Roxanne in the vanguard but there is no helping it.

Even if you say it’s troublesome the only thing the escape goat is doing is running away.
It seems the seventh floor will be a bit of a struggle.

Demons from the seventh floor of Quratar’s labyrinth even moved here.
The demon from Quratar’s labyrinth is a Slow Rabbit Lv7.

It made me nostalgic, I fought a Slow Rabbit back in the forest near the first village.

It seems to mean that there was a labyrinth in that forest and one of the monsters from the first floor is a slow rabbit?
Because there was no entrance, it’s a child labyrinth which didn’t have 50 floors yet.

The attacks from the slow rabbit are slow, and it’s only a body crash type of attack, it’s easy to fight it barehanded.
Is it the same for the one’s from the seventh floor of Quratar’s Labyrinth?
The demon jumped when i approached it.
I’m happy to encounter one of them after all this time.
It seems that any demons in the labyrinth are active and attack whenever they see a person.

I destroyed him with 5 shots of magic.
So the slow rabbit Lv.7 needs the same amount of shots as other

demons on the floor.

The slow rabbit can drop a rare ingredient, it's rabbit meat.
The time when the cook's ability is demonstrated had finally come.
I thought I had it but then it's a rabbit fur that came out.

"It's a fur from a rabbit? Do you think think a merchant is willing to buy it in the merchant place?"
"In case of rabbit's fur, I think they buy it in a high quality clothing shop in the imperial capital."

Roxanne picks up the rabbit's fur and hands it to me.

"Is that so?"
"Yeah, they would, in a shop similar to the one you were at the other day Master."
"I wonder why they would buy rabbit fur."

The items that the demons from the early floors leave are common and a lot of people can get them for themselves, it is not that it is unusable, but there is a lot of stock if you go to the guild.
However, i heard that it was rare and there is a request especially going out.
I wonder, why would they buy rabbit's fur?

"It's because the coats which are made from rabbit fur are really strong against cold and it's good as a winter proof clothing and in particular, it seems to be really popular among the noble women that never go out without rabbit fur."
"I see."
"The atelier and the shop that makes the high quality clothing always compete to create coats with the latest style. Because a lot of wages rely on processing the slow rabbit's fur and i heard that it has a large amount of profit."

The women's fashion competition seems to be severe, even in this world.
Fur might even be a staple part of their fashion.

"Does Roxanne want a coat made from rabbit's fur too?"
"I'm from the beast race, so I'm already strong against the cold, also

a slave shouldn’t wear something like that”
“You are strong against the cold?”
“Yes”

In other words, the light clothes are all right.
Being lightly dressed looks really good on Roxanne
The clothes with a lot of exposures of skin, i think that clothes which show the curve from the chest are suited the highest.

Later, after eating rabbit meat for breakfast, i proceeded to the imperial capital, i went for the high quality shop.

The leftover rabbit meat was sold to Quratar’s butcher.
We killed around 40 Slow Rabbit’s and ended up with 4 Rabbit’s meat.
The cooking job increases the drop rate of rare ingredients, but it doesn’t seem to be much.

“Irasshaimase” (TN : Welcome)

When Roxanne and I entered the boutique in the imperial capital, the shop assistant lowered his head.
He is completely facing the ground in a really polite way.
As excepted of a high quality shop.

“I came here to sell you some rabbit’s fur”
“Would you follow me over here, please?”

I am led to a place to meet with the cashier, i enter the shop and head to the back.

“Hello, how may i help you?”
“The customer is here to sell rabbit’s fur”
The talk from the assistant woman with the cashier succeeded.

“Can you show us the rabbit’s fur?”
“Here”

I took out the rabbit’s fur and placed it over the tray, after taking everything out it covered the whole tray.

“It’s 34 pieces in total, is it fine?”

The cashier inspects every item one by one, then nods once and bring them inside the back and came out with another tray.
On the tray is 8 silver coins and a large amount of copper coins
A piece of fur is 20 nars, for 34 piece with 30 % up it reach 884 nars
There should be eighty-four copper coins.
I receive the payment without counting it because it's troublesome and I wouldn't be cheated in a luxury store.

"Alright, I received the payment"
"Thank you, we are looking forward to your next visit."

The male at the cash register did the most respectful salutation.
It's a good attitude considering I'm not a customer.

The guest is put at honor in such a shop and they probably doesn't welcome many explorer's or adventurer's, considering that in a high quality shop in the imperial capital the main visitors are noble women.
As I have a little improper feeling, I try to go out of the shop.
A line of clothes aside from me entered in my line of sight.

Clean beautiful clothes with glossy luster, probably the clothes for women.
It seems to have a thin shoulder strap.
it's a camisole.

When i took it in my hand to have a look here was a nice skirt with a good length, it's a camisole dress (TN : http://thumbnail.image.rakuten.co.jp/@0_mall/mel/cabinet/2011/08/8153308-c.jpg?_ex=300×300&s=2&r=1)

Is the cloth in satin? It's really thin. Though it is not transparent, it's subtle in certain places.

"This is really popular among aristocratic women and the like. It is used as underwear and nightshirts"

The female assistant who has come out first explained to me.
It seems to not be the kind of product a man would stare at.
I hastily put back the clothes.

"How is it?"

Roxanne asked me.

“Well that’s…”

The clothes are not bad, Roxanne looks good with light clothes, and if she was to wear it on top of the skin.

“It would really suit you, how much is it?”
“It’s really cheap with the price of eight hundred nars”

High quality is expensive, it’s more than the whole clothes we have except for the accessories i wear right now.
I thought it would be even higher because it’s silk, but it’s not that much.

“How about we buy two of them? Which one do you want?”
“I want this one”

I nodded and let Roxanne choose.
She took the one i watched at the beginning.
Because it’s a high quality store the colours are really good.

Blue feels soft.
Red has a little harsh feel.
Green is really a nice colour.
Yellow, pale but beautiful is also a good color.
Black, although it is black it’s also a good.

“I like the color of the first one”

Roxanne pointed at the pink one.
The pink one is lovely, it’s not shocking pink but pale pink.

“Certainly”
“Please”

Roxanne chooses slowly and carefully while talking with the assistant.

“I am impressed, it looks like it would tear apart immediately but it has been produced carefully”
“Yeah, it is, because it’s a good fabric”.
“How do you wash it?”

“You lightly stroke it with your hand in the water.”

After all, it’s two of them, the white one and the pink one.
I bought it with thirty percent discount.

I think that i have successfully fallen into a trap from the shop side.
The polite attitude wasn’t the thing causing the bad feeling here.
In the vicinity of the cash register, cheap small articles that explorers seem to be able to buy were placed there.
I think that this sales strategy has been completed really well.

Even with this, it was probably not a bad purchase.

Later I looked at Roxanne who wore the light pink colored camisole after the bath and strengthened my thought.
It was definitely not a bad purchase.
A wonderful piece.

“Wow i love it! It really suits you”
“Thank you Master”

The light pink color sightly changes the color of Roxanne’s skin.
Roxanne was delicate and elegant, I kindly hugged her.
Surrounding the wet body of Roxanne, i did not just hug her, I also caress the lines of her body.

I’m sinking into two big masses of mountains.
I mean stuck, and lifting them.
They are lifted by the terrible ero activity coming from inside me.

At the summit there is a tiny bump.
It’s the rare ingredient part of the fruit.

When put under the light with thin clothes the swelling of the chest is ferocious.
The power is different.
Because it’s Roxanne’s chest, it’s also wonderful when it’s not dressed, but because it’s a single piece of clothe, the feeling coming from the chest increases.

The clothes are neat and clean but contain something violent.
Shining lustrously combined with the glossy piece of silk.

After all, i think that what i bought was good.

“Ahh this is the best”
“Um, wh….”

The argument was sealed inside her mouth.
Uhhhh ~
It cannot be helped i was at my limit.
I just finished with the bath a while ago but it looks like i just have to go for a second round.

Chapter 44 - Alchemy

The Escape Goat that appears on Vale Labyrinths seventh floor is quite troublesome.
It runs away after three blows from magic or a single blow from Durandal.
When more than one appear, I have to quickly use five casts of [Fire Storm] to defeat them before they escape.
Even then, there is still the chance they will get away.

It's even harder if they come out in a group with other monsters.
The timing of casting the fifth spell might be too slow if I have to exchange blows with a demon that came with it.
It's best to use Durandal as a finisher.

First you use two magic shots.
Then you swing Durandal & the Escape Goat is killed.
The rest of the demons can be defeated without Durandal and only using magic.

There's no room for error.
Even so, the efficiency is quite good.

Well, I guess I don't really know for sure if the efficiency is good.
How fast does a fight need to be to make up for decreasing my [increased experienced] stat?
I can use the [10x increased experience] stat while using magic, but I've had to stop using [10x increased experience] to use Durandal on the Escape Goat's so killing other demons is might be better.
Well, as long as the level of my Cook job is increasing I'm not really worried.

"So, you can't use magic while using the sword?"

Roxanne asked while picking up the Goat Thread which was dropped by the Escape Goat.
It was the item I expected.

"It's usable, but it will be less efficient. Is it causing trouble for

Roxanne?”
“No, I am fine.”
“You’re very good as a vanguard, and you help me a lot.”
“Thank you.”

Sometimes Roxanne has to keep demons busy while I take time to get out Durandal.
I have a very high opinion of Roxanne’s agility.
She’ll almost never get hit even when fighting two or three demons.

I don’t know what things will be like in the future though.
Demon groups on the eighth floor can have up to four demons.
It’s something I need to think about.

Slow Rabbit’s started appearing on Quratar’s seventh floor and leave Rabbit furs.
To sell the furs we’ve been making a regular trip to the imperial capital.
There’s quite a variety of shops in the capital.
It’s because of the large amount of people that there is such a variety.

The furs are sold off as we walk around.
There’s a seasoning shop.
It has vinegar and fish sauce.

I was excited to taste it, but it didn’t taste anything like soy sauce.
The smell of it isn’t good either.
It reminds me of something from the Honshu area.
It might be good to cook pork with.

People open stall’s in the imperial capital’s main street to sell stuff as well.
Fast food in this world is limited to night stalls.
There’s a pizza style shop, and a crepe shop, and a shop selling chicken meat on sticks too.

There’s stalls making stuff and selling it straight away.
One stall has a food that’s a brown fried sort of color.
There’s a lot of children gathering there, is it cheap candy?

“Do you know what they are selling there?”
“I’m not sure.”
“Want to try some?”

I leave Roxanne and go stand in line.
While looking at the cheap brown candy I saw something like a wafer.
Is there such a thing here?

“They are 10 nars each.”
“I’ll take two.”

After ordering, the worker poured some kind of liquid into a small pan.
The wafer is in there and disappears into the liquid.
Will it be some kind of sponge?

Soon the liquid begins to expand.
A thick mountain appears in the pan.
The nearby children start cheering.

“It’s done.”

The workman removes it from the pan.
He wraps it in some kind of leaf and passes it to me.
I take out some nars and pay for it.
He’s a villager so my 30% discount doesn’t apply.

One is given to Roxanne.
The second one I passed to a cute girl nearby.

“Would you like this?”
“Yes.”

There’s no real reason.
It’s just a cute girl.
After that she waved cheerfully and left.

“Was it good?”
“The taste is unusual.”

I know what it is.

It’s caramel.
I learnt to make it in junior high school.

I don’t really remember the taste though.
I’m not sure if I could judge if it’s exactly the same even if I try it now.
I just have a memory of not thinking it was very delicious.

“It’s sweet and delicious.”

Oh wow, Roxanne is enthusiastically filling her mouth. It has a similar feeling to a modern Japanese high school student eating cake.
I watch the stall from nearby as I wait for Roxanne to finish.

When caramel melts from the heat of bicarbonate soda in liquid the carbonate acid dissipates and causes swelling.
I think that the stall making the cheap sweets uses the same method.
When the pan is warmed, the liquid swells rapidly.

The worker turns to the back as I watch.
A small box is opened, and something is taken out.
A powder was taken out, and placed in a tub of water. The liquid which becomes the origin of the caramel has been created.

Chance.
I use [Judgement] on the box.
It seems I can’t identify the powder.
If some of the item is missing, like a handful of Kobald Salt, then it can no longer be identified and will also no longer go into the item box.

Kobold Sucrose

Shell Powder

I could work out that Kobald Sucrose and Shell Powder were components of the powder in the box.
Even if I ask the worker directly, he won’t tell me because it’s a business secret.
I don’t want to make Caramel on it’s own, so if I can find out the raw materials name then that’s good enough.

Maybe the worker is mixing flour with the Kobald Sucrose and Shell Powder.
If sugar and bicarbonate of soda are mixed with flour then you can make caramel.
The Sucrose is sugar.
The Shell Powder must be bicarbonate of soda.

Shell powder = bicarbonate of soda = sodium hydrogencarbonate

“Ready to go?”
“Yes, Thank you for the delicious meal.”

I headed towards the adventurers guild with Roxanne when she finished eating.

“Do you know anything about Shell Powder?”
“It’s an extinguisher.”
“An extinguisher?”
“There isn’t any power to cancel out fire magic, but you can extinguish it as soon as possible and stop the fire from spreading as soon as possible with an extinguisher. With an extract from scallop shells and shell leaves you can counter-act the magic once.”

It’s different to bicarbonate of soda.
Well, the effects against magic shouldn’t matter.

“Can you mix it with flour and bake it, or use it for cleaning?”
“The Shell Powder?”
“Yes.”
“I haven’t heard anything like that.”

It’s different.

“Do you use vinegar to clean?”
“I haven’t heard of that.”

I asked just to check, but it seems even vinegar isn’t used.
There is vinegar in this world.
Vinegar is acidic, Bicarbonate of soda is an alkaline and both should be effective to wash off dirt.
If vinegar isn’t used for cleaning then the possibility they don’t know about using bicarbonate of soda for cleaning is high.

I bought some Shell Powder in the adventurers guild. I also bought a pan, and some wheat bran and then returned to the house.

I'm experimenting making caramel, though the main purpose isn't the caramel.
Soap can be made using rice bran.
When the fatty acids in the vegetable oil react with the bicarbonate of soda, then it should become soap.

While in a school group, I had to make it in front of a teacher on my own, so I remember how to do it.
Bad memories.
All the members of the group should have had to help out.

Anyway, if there is bicarbonate of soda, then I can make soap.
Although it isn't right, rice bran should be able to be replaced with the vegetable oil.
First I'll try and use the wheat bran though.
Rice bran was probably only a substitute in the old days too.

After returning I went straight to the kitchen.
I brought half a pan of water to the boil.
If it works, this pan will be used exclusively for soap.

Shell Powder was put through the mill and added to the boiling water.
Bubbles come out.
It seems correct that Shell Powder is bicarbonate of soda.

After the bubbles die down, the wheat bran is added.
I'm just adding it gradually since I don't know how much.
I recall that I had to add alot of rice bran.
It probably can't be helped if I fail at first.

As I mix it a brown muddy liquid forms.
It seems to be going better than I expected.
I'm starting to get worn out from stirring it.

"What is this?"

Roxanne had been cleaning, but came over out of interest.

“Soap.”
“Soap? Is it going well?”
“I’m not sure yet.”
“Making soap is amazing.”

I wouldn’t have even thought of trying to make it if I didn’t know how to make it.
Soap seems like it would be quite valuable in this world.
It will be quite useful if I can make it well.

“If you use the Shell Powder for cleaning then the dirt will come right off.”
“Really?”
“Yes.”
“I had no idea. I’ll try it now.”
“If you find dirt that the Shell Powder doesn’t work on, try using vinegar instead and it might work.”

Bicarbonate of soda is an alkaline and works extremely well against acidic dirt, but it’s not very effective against alkaline dirt.
Acidic vinegar is used on the alkaline dirt.
The Shell Powder seems to have numerous uses.
I remember hearing that the hot spring at Nagano, where I went for my skiing training camp during junior high school was a bicarbonate of soda spring, so I can probably try and add some to the bath.

“Well, how do I use it? Do I just have to rub it on?”

Even though Roxanne raced off with excitement, she returned straight away.
The idea of dissolving it in water doesn’t seem to exist here.

“No, you should try dissolving it in water and then using it for wiping.”

I’ve never actually tried it, it’s just general knowledge.
Well, I think it’s supposed to be dissolved in water.

“Master, this is amazing.”

Before long, Roxanne flies back in with her eyes sparkling.
It seems that I was right.

I take the pan off the fire.
This looks to be going well also.
It will be finished now once it's dry.

That night, it appears that my jobs have increased.

Alchemist Lv1
Effect: Small int rise, Medium dex rise, Skill – Plating.

An Alchemist.
Since making soap is a chemical reaction I likely got it from that.
The next morning I went to the Labyrinth.
I immediately tested out the Alchemist.

Kaga Michio: 17 year old male. Explorer Lv32, Hero Lv30, Wizard Lv32, Monk Lv30, Cook Lv25, Alchemist Lv1.
Equipment: Leather Gloves, Leather Armor, Leather Hat, Leather Shoes, Wand.

Roxanne: 16 year old female. Beast Warrior Lv18
Equipment: Sandals, Leather Jacket, Leather Hat, Wooden Shield, Scimitar.

I'm over-straining my points a bit and using the sixth job this time.
Monk is for emergencies, and Cook is for the rare ingredient drops from the Slow Rabbit.

My bonus points are currently distributed like this:
[Required Experience decreased to 10%] 31 points.
[Increased experience by 10x] 31 points.
[Crystallization increased by 32x] 31 points.
[Sixth Job] 31 points.
[Incantation omission] 3 points.
[Job Settings] [Judgement] [Character reset] 1 point each.
A total of 130 points.

When I don't have the sixth job I use [5x MP recovery Speed].
When I became Explorer Lv31 and started to use the sixth job I started having to use Durandal more often for MP recovery.
The [MP Recovery Speed] skill probably is based on my natural recovery rate.

There is a noticeable difference when I go up to 5x.

Even so, the difference isn't that extreme.
I went to the Labyrinth of Vale after breakfast to try out the Alchemist job.
Even if I use a sixth job instead of MP recovery speed the difference isn't really a problem.
The difference is that small.

"Since I'm experimenting, can you try to find a single demon?"
"Certainly."
"Thank you."

What experiment am I doing? The Alchemists skill. I'm testing out [Plating].
When I tried to use [Plating] it required a target, so it isn't a passive skill.
I tried [Plating] the pocket knife and the leather equipment but it didn't work.

Maybe it can be used on something living, not an object.
The name sounds like it might be a defensive skill, but I can't rule out it being offensive so I'll try it on a demon first.
After [Plating] it, maybe it will become fragile and easy to break.

"May I ask what experiment you are doing this time?"

Roxanne spoke as we moved.
There have been a lot of experiments getting done since I met Roxanne.
Even yesterday had the experiment to make soap.
When her master does an experiment she might be quite amazed.

"Do you know about the job Alchemist?"
"Um, they are people who try to create money."

They have that sort of person in this world?
Well, if you get the alchemist job from doing a chemical reaction then maybe it's natural.
Aiming to make money with a chemical reaction is alchemy.

"This test is about the alchemist job."

“Can you make money?”

Roxanne opened her eyes wide.

“No, yes, well, I’m not sure…”

Since there is magic in the world there may be a skill that produces money.
Or maybe not, the value of money would drop significantly if there was such a skill.
Or, it might be an extremely well kept secret.

Well, for now the only thing I can do is test [Plating].
Plating is that thing.
Covering something in brass and telling people that it’s gold.
It’s just fake.

“Here’s one.”

While lost in my own thoughts, Roxanne gets my attention.
A Slow Rabbit appeared, and I tried to activate [Plating] on it.
There doesn’t seem to be any changes on the Slow Rabbit.
Isn’t it an attack skill?

In the end it still took five spells to kill the Slow Rabbit Lv7.
It seems like it isn’t an attack skill.
I tried attacking one with Durandal instead of magic, but there still didn’t seem to be an effect.
If it’s an attack skill, does it have special conditions? Or is the Slow Rabbit resistant to it?

Later, after breakfast, we head to Vale Labyrinth’s second floor.
I put my bonus points into Intellect and found that I could kill something with one spell.
Previously it was impossible to kill something in one spell even with 99 bonus points into Intellect, so my spells have become stronger as my level went up.

I tried [Plating] a Needle Wood Lv2.
I wasn’t able to defeat it in one shot.

So it seems that Plating is a defensive skill.

If you consider the name, perhaps it is a skill that makes a defensive covering.

Since it still took 5 spells to defeat the Lv7 Slow Rabbit, it seems that the decrease in damage is less than 20%.
I thought of it, but I'm not sure.
Maybe Plating only works once?
If it's a defensive layer, maybe it breaks after the first attack?

It should be easy to test.
After [Plating] the Needle Wood, Roxanne attacks it once with the Scimitar, and then I attack it once with magic.
It's defeated in a single spell.
It seems to decrease the damage of one blow.

It is not possible to defeat it if the Scimitar is the second attack.
If Roxanne attacks it first, and then it's plated again, it is not possible to defeat it with a [Fireball].
Since the plated Needle Wood isn't able to be defeated with one spell even with 99 bonus points in Intellect I can't be certain how much the damage reduction really is.

I continued to experiment with [Plating] as we moved through the floor.
I got a rough understanding of the skill.

[Plating] is a one attack only defense skill.
It doesn't matter if it's against magic or physical attacks.
There is no effect from additional casts before being hit.
The damage reduction is probably between 10% and 20%.

It isn't strong, but it's still a valuable defensive skill.
I will regularly use it in the future.

Chapter 45 - Soap

The soap is still fairly soft after nearly one day's time.
Is it properly hardening like this?
For the middle school experiment, if I'm not mistaken, the teacher had hardened them in the refrigerator and immediately they were all used up playing. I don't know how much drying is needed.

After dinner, the thing more than being called soap, it looks like butter, is applied to the towel and I try washing Roxanne.
I have naked Roxanne stand in the bathroom.

Roxanne has a good figure.
In its own way tall yet slim and long slender limbs.
Her chest as if it isn't enough is violently equipped and full bodied.
From her hips, her thigh's line also slopes gently. She has a narrow waist and a tail.

"Ermm. Master first."
"No. It's an experiment, so."

Roxanne who said that thoughtlessly is swiftly silent.
Was she thinking for what purpose did I make the soap?
To wash Roxanne.
Even though that's the sole purpose that I made it for.

I want to wash Roxanne immediately. I want to cover her in foam.
Anything more than that must be firmly rejected.
In a firm manner, I reject Roxanne's offer.

"O-of course."

Seems Roxanne understands.

However if I think about it, I'm testing on a living person!
Because I don't know if I really was able to make soap.
Like not suiting the skin because it's too alkaline might be possible.
It'll be a problem if she turns like the Hare of Inaba.

I rub it on the towel soaked in hot water and it forms bubbles.
First I try putting it on my hand.

The amount of foam is satisfactory.
It's good enough. But it's not to the level of the body shampoo at home; more or less, there's no helping it.
My hand didn't sting or feel itchy.
Wouldn't that mean that I was able to make an adequate soap?

I try to spread it on my arm too.
Seems there's no problem.

"Then, extend out your arms."
"Yes."

I take hold of Roxanne's extended left hand.
I cover her supple hand in bubbles.
I insert my fingers in-between her fingers.
Little by little, moving up and down in a piston like motion.

Somewhat it feels good.
It's a pleasant feeling, doing it gently.

"Just in case, since this is the first time and an experiment, if there's any discomfort, tell me."
"Understood."

After washing her hand, I spread it on her arms.
After enjoying the tenderness of her upper arms, I move to the armpits.
Inserting my palms, I rub them many times over.
The towel is only used to take the produced foam from all of Roxanne's washing which is done with my own bare hands.

Following the armpits, I move hurriedly to the long awaited base of the mounts.
*As swift as the wind.

Those violent mountains were standing calmly.
*As quiet as the forest.

Moving towards the snow capped peaks, I cover them in white.

*As daring as fire.

Whenever I wash them, I cause them to vibrate. The soap bubbles look like they shake and jiggle, is it my imagination?
T-this is amazing.

It wasn't my imagination.
While washing, shaking it a little, and the summits do immensely…
*As immovable as the mountain.

Slowly, plentifully, thoroughly and carefully I finish washing her.
Her stomach and neck are covered in foam too. Then I move to her back.

"Since today is the first time, I'll wash your back, hair and tail, but tomorrow won't."
"Is that so?"
"I heard soap is not good for the hair."
"Is that so???"
"Probably."

I think I heard that somewhere in the past.
That's why something like Shampoo was specially made; that shouldn't necessarily be wrong.
Undoubtedly it's better not to wash it daily.

I fully cover the fur on her back in bubbles.
Swaying and fluffy, I knead with both my hands.

Continuing from the back, I wash her tail.
While rubbing the tail's fur between both hands, I carefully wash it.
Being silky smooth and soft, it feels good.
Her lower half is washed without reservations. With my own hands.

After covering everywhere in foam, I go towards her head.
I take some foam from the hand towel and churns lively like if it was boiling.

Not only do I wash her hair but also her dog ears.
Normally I can touch them as much as I want; I must gratefully wash them.
Both sides of her dog ears, the base section, the indented parts,

etc. I rub them all with my fingers so there's no place unwashed.

I let go of her ears and the foam drips from her hair onto her face.
Roxanne closes her eyes.

Confirming that she keeps her eyes closed while washing her hair, I am enjoying her full body.
Subsequently at last, I wash her face and cheeks too.
I completely cover her in bubbles.

Like wearing clothes made of white foam, it's strangely charming.
Is it because here and there, there's bare skin visible?
The foam is giving a sexy impression of torn clothes.
Or, is it after all just because of the foam?
Holding her with my hands, I can touch her bare skin.

"…E-ermm."

Oh no.
Without thinking, I embrace her.
It's what they call an irresistible force.

"Doing like this, one can efficiently wash with very little soap. In my home town, it is a traditional way of washing between a man and woman intimately."

I enumerate a bunch of lies.
Because of this occasion, I rub with all my heart; I get my fill of Roxanne covered in bubbles.
The combined feeling of moist skin and slippery soap is extremely pleasant.

"Is that so?"
"That's right."

I forcefully affirm it.
My heart aches a bit at Roxanne being so obedient, but there's no helping it.

As for everything, the first time is critical.
But actually, finished washing in general, after demanding to do that, I might be considered a pervert.

If from the beginning, imprinting that this is normal, next time too, there shouldn't be any resistance.

"W-well then, I will now wash Master's body."

Roxanne shyly moves her hands around my back.
As expected, precedence is necessary.

I entrust everything to Roxanne to wash.
Beyond that foam, the bouncy mountains are rampaging.
Even under normal circumstances, those violent bulges that are foul play are used too.
Awesome.

"Thanks. It feels good to be washed by Roxanne!"
"Ermm. If you're okay with it."

I'm washed everywhere by Roxanne.
No. Things like the hair, the hair.

"Then I'll start rinsing."

After being washed, hot water is drawn with the bucket and slowly poured from the top of the head.
The foam is washed away from the whole body.
We alternately draw hot water and wash it off.

"It feels good being so smooth."

After washing off the soap, Roxanne strokes her own arm.
She delightfully smiles from ear to ear. It seems satisfying.

"No problems!?"
"Yes, I'm alright. Somehow I feel like I've been reborn."
"You're pretty to begin with. I think you haven't changed much."
"T-thank you."

Eh?
Right now, should I have said something like "You're pretty to begin with, but now you have become beautiful"?
As expected to praise her to such extent.
In reality, is it ok to say "You're beautiful to begin with; even now

your beauty hasn't changed much."?

The next morning, with a body feeling refreshed from being washed with soap, we enter Quratar's Labyrinth.
The refreshed feeling is from being washed with soap; there's no other ulterior motive.
Although I can't completely deny it.

At times like this, feeling so good, one can think something nice might happen.

While thinking that, I eat the full ramming attack from the Slow Rabbit.
Damn!
Because of this good mood, I shouldn't have been any less careful than normal days.

Because I properly applied [Plating], to some extent, there is very little impact.
I strike it with the wand in a fit of anger. I start casting a fourth [Fire Storm].
After shooting the fifth shot, I'm alright.

The fire embers dance; the monster is beaten.
The Slow Rabbit that dealt the ramming attack disappears into smoke.
It serves you right!

Staring at the visage flying.
Thereupon, the smoke dissipates and a small thing that's neither rabbit fur nor rabbit meat is left behind.
Eh? This is the first I've seen!

"Master, you have done it. It's a Monster Card."

Roxanne jumps at it before I could even use [Analyze] to know what it is.
Oh! So this is a Monster Card?

[Monster Card Rabbit]

No doubt even with [Analyze].

It’s a card the same size as an Intelligence Card.
It’s similar to the Intelligence Card of the thieves; there’s nothing written on it.

“This is the so called?”
“Yes. This is my first time seeing it too.”
“Even though it’s your first time seeing one, you immediately understood it’s a Monster Card.”
“Because I’ve heard about them.”

Just hearing about it, you knew?
But it’s some sort of card no matter how you look it.

“Is that so too?”
“Because of Master steadily clearing the monsters, I thought we would eventually get to see one, but seeing one so soon, I’m impressed.”

For someone entering a labyrinth, this could be considered one of the objectives.
Up till now, even though we have hunted a fair amount of monsters, not one had dropped before; it’s a pretty rare drop.
It probably can be sold for a lot.

However, I don’t plan to sell this Monster Card yet.
It should be able to be installed in an equipment’s empty slot.

But for that purpose, we somehow need a Master Smith.
To fuse the monster card to an equipment, the skill of a Master Smith is needed and only dwarves can become them.

The opportunity comes up soon after.
At the time we finish exploring Quratar’s labyrinth, the magic crystal has become yellow.

A yellow magic crystal.
Seems you can sell it for 100,000 Nars.
This should be able to turn into minimum funding.
If one is expensive as Roxanne.

“Later today, I plan to go to Vale Town”

At breakfast, I convey my plans.
First I must go to the Slave Trader's place to ask some things.

"Is there any business you have to attend?"
"Well, there's some with the trading company"

For Roxanne, the Slave Trading Company shouldn't be a good place.

"In the trading company?"
"First, I want to go make my will. Roxanne has done very well. I'm planning on releasing Roxanne if I die."

When a Master dies, what happens to the slave can be put in the testament.
In case there's no special testament, it seems they follow him to the grave.

I can't let Roxanne go through that.
It's useful against slaves baring their fangs against their masters, but it shouldn't be needed for Roxanne.

"Thank you very much. However, is it alright to talk about such a thing?"
"Well. I wonder if Roxanne needs to be present when making a will. You'll end up knowing, so there's no problem. If Roxanne isn't needed to be present when making a will, because it can be altered secretly, even if I told you, your attitude wouldn't change. That's why I think there's no problem even if I talk about it."

I don't know if Roxanne needs to be present when making the will; it's better if I bring her today.

"I see, that's so. Of course, my attitude wouldn't change."
"I understand. That's as a general consideration."

Actually, I haven't hypothesized that Roxanne would back stab me.
Or should I say satisfied with being stabbed?

"For a testament, I think a slave doesn't need to be present."
"Is that so?"
"Yes. And also…"

Roxanne lowers her voice.

“Umm?”
“If you can trust me, please do not leave a will.”

Abruptly, Roxanne says something.
What do you mean?
I mostly didn’t understand the meaning.
That I don’t leave a will.

“Eh? Why?”
“I will protect Master. I will not let Master be defeated before me.”

Roxanne decisively declares it.
I stop biting the grilled rabbit meat schema and stare at Roxanne.
She isn’t showing a face like she was telling a joke.
It appears that she’s serious.

“W-well. But of course I’m relying on Roxanne.”
“If I survive without being able to protect my Master, it’s a disgrace to a warrior.”
“I understand, but the testament is another matter.”
“If you can let this slave protect you till its last breath, that’s a sign of trust in that said reliance.”

Is that kind of thing?
But the reason I feel is a bit strange.

“Well, I think I’m happy about it, but there could be a heart attack too.”
“Haart Attack?”
“It is a heart illness. I can’t deny that one can die suddenly.”

Seems like she doesn’t know what a heart attack is.

“It is alright. There is no need for Master to become worried.”
“Ermm… seriously?”
“Yes.”

Seems like it’s really written.
Looking at Roxanne’s face, one can’t think it’s a joke.

Is this what it feels like when a Knight pledges to his Lord?
In terms of the state of cultural development, that's probably the closest thing.

"If Roxanne wants to do that, do so, but…"
"Thank you."
"But why?"
"I think Master is a magnificent person. Young and strong and with abilities. With all due respect, you will accomplish splendid things. Nevertheless you treat me affectionately. This kindness, I must pay it back."

Is this like a Feudal Lord and his loyal Samurai in Japan's Edo Period after all?
As for Roxanne, probably she's yearning for something like that.
In that case, isn't that a bad thing if I accept it?

"I understand. However, I must say something. I don't think I'll accomplish anything."
"I do not think so."
"Rather, I'm here because I won't achieve anything."

I, who is not a human of this world, if I move recklessly, I could possibly create chaos.
I must avoid that.
I must be cautious from overestimating my abilities and being caught in the moment commit an imprudent action.

Like the fire that is isolated will not spread and disappear, I ought to disappear like the fire that doesn't spread.

"I do not understand it well."
"It's ok if you don't understand. Just keep thinking that way."
"Certainly."

I forcefully make Roxanne agree while she is tilting her head confused.

"But I'll still go to the trading company in Vale. It's time we think about increasing the party members. I wanted to ask if there is any good warrior. There's no need to force Roxanne to come if I don't

need to leave a will. In the 8th floor, 4 monsters are the biggest group that appears. As expected, it should be difficult with two members. Since I need to constantly take in and out my sword, I won't be able to constantly cope with it. If there's someone else beside Roxanne at the front, it'll be safer."

The atmosphere turns sensitive, but I talk about the original purpose.
I felt awkward after what Roxanne said about a will not being needed, but…
Because of feeling guilty, it looks like suddenly I become talkative.

No. it's not that the next party member has necessarily been decided to be a female.
If the vanguard is a dwarf that could become a Master Smith, there's the possibility that it could be a bearded old man.

Being flanked by two beauties with Roxanne or so. However, that's of course what I yearn.
When waking up in the morning with beautiful girls on each arm.
In the bath being washed from the front and back with Roxanne.
Damn. That's nice.

However, it's not like I have prepared plenty of funds.
A slave with Roxanne's level of requirements would be expensive.
Beautiful with good personality and regarding the labyrinth being very useful.
I shouldn't compromise with the party members, but there's no helping it if the next one is an old man.

"That is excellent. Certainly, if we both go up, it should be about time it got more difficult for us."

Roxanne appears to be positive too.

It's ok to try to think about it.
We don't know what could happen inside a labyrinth.
We could fall in a situation where we need to sacrifice someone to prevent the party from being wiped out.

At that time, having an old man would be useful.
If there is an old man, it's virtually been decided whom to sacrifice.

Without a moment's delay, I can make a decision.
Roxanne and I may be able to escape in those moments.

Thanks, old man. I'm indebted to you, old man.
I won't forget the old man's noble spirit.
I'll keep living thanks to the old man's sacrifice.
No more old man!

"You think likewise?"
"Yes. About that, is it alright if I accompany you there?
"Just in case, I'll try to ask Roxanne for your opinion. Because I don't know or understand a lot of things, it should be helpful if you have any advice."

I want to see what Roxanne's reaction is if I decide to choose a female.
If she looks to be against it, there's no way it can be forced.

"Understood. Well then, let's go together."
"Please."

But if I think that an old man will be in the same party with Roxanne, for some reason, I could get excessively annoyed.
If he does something like staring at her chest, he'll be punished with instant death.
The old man is forbidden from looking at Roxanne; he's forbidden from talking to her; he's even forbidden from breathing the same air as Roxanne.
Such rules must be necessary.

There's the possibility that Roxanne's glamorous figure in a negligee will be seen if we all live together.
As expected, an old man is no good. No more old man!
I must limit party members to girls.

Notes:

TL Note: Hare of Inaba or White Rabbit of Inaba http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hare_of_Inaba

TL Note: You pervs, it sounds like it but he isn't doing that… yet.
Panda: Where is our hunting squad? The teasing is getting ridiculous…..

TL Note: I didn't know Michio had such fetishes.
Panda: Not surprised. Hentai alarm went off several chapters ago……..like a lot of chapters.

TL Note: These 4 marked phrases are known in Japan as Fūrinkazan (風林火山) which said 'as swift as the wind, as quiet as the forest, as daring as fire, and as immovable as the mountain', which themselves are based on 4 out of 6 phrases in Sun Tzu's The Art of War Chapter 7, passage 17 to 19. Fūrinkazan (風林火山) is famous for being used on the battle flags of Takeda Shingen, a Feudal Lord in the Sengoku period.

Panda: So he knows, so he knows.

TL Note: implied written (on her face)

Panda: Possessive much?

Chapter 46 - Re-visiting.

After exploring Vale's Labyrinth, we went out to Vale's Adventurers guild.
We entered the Labyrinth to stockpile some items.

Since the 30% bonus to sale price is effective in the guild, a yellow crystal worth 100,000 nars will sell for 130,000 nars.
An increase of 30,000 nars is quite a bit, so I'm worried the guild staff may have doubts.
They might be able to notice easily because the number of gold coins will be 13.
To try and decrease suspicion, it might be a good idea to sell off a large quantity of items at the same time.

I also need to think about the place I'm selling to.
Since I'm selling a magic crystal for the first time there isn't a problem, but if I bring the next one here they might be suspicious about the speed I made it.
With the 32X increase to magic crystallization skill, I can collect magic 32X faster than everyone else.
It would be better to sell it in the confusion of a busy place.

"Can I sell the magic crystal in the Adventurers guild?"
"Yes, I think that it is possible in any guild."

Roxanne confirmed it.
If I can sell it in the Adventurers Guild, then I can sell the crystals off in another four places. Both the Adventurers guild and Explorers guild in the Imperial capital and Quratar.
With this I can rotate around the additional four places.
If I mix in some other towns as well it will be perfect.

The yellow crystal was put on the tray at the counter of Vale's Adventurers guild.
Other items are put on top of it to hide it.

"I'd like to sell these."

“Sure.”

The 30ish year old woman accepted the tray, and went to the inner guild area.
Waiting was nerve wracking.

She came back. Was that about the same time as usual? Was it longer than usual?
I quickly counted that there were thirteen gold coins on the tray.
The woman does not look like she has any suspicions.
It seems it’s all fine.

I quickly put the gold coins into the item box.
The silver and copper coins I put into the drawstring bag, and left the counter.

“Let’s go.”
“Yes.”

Basically, the staff at the counter don’t seem to comment about the amount of money in the sale.
Since it’s an income source for the Adventurers & Explorers guilds they probably don’t think anything of it.
If it’s scrutinized they can get to know one’s living standards and other things.
Without touching the subject, they could practically already have a grasp of it.

I went out and had my first walk through Vale in a long time.
There doesn’t really seem to be any changes.

“I want to meet the Slave Trader.”

We arrived in front of the Slave Traders business, and spoke to the man who came out.
I can’t remember the slave traders name.

“This way please.”

The man went inside once, and then came back and guided us in.
We were taken to the back room.

Why is that?
I was taken to the room I first saw when I came to sell the village thief who became a slave.
Does it seem like I came here to sell Roxanne?

I glanced towards Roxanne, but I can't see any changes in her expression.
It seems she feels safe even in the slave traders building she was in previously.
I sat down, but Roxanne remained standing.

Why?
At this time it's better if you don't sit next to me?

"You're standing?"
"Yes, I think it gives a better impression."

Roxanne's judgement is probably better than mine, I don't have a clue.
I nodded towards her and left her as is.

"Welcome Michio."

The slave trader came straight into the room.
I checked his name with [Analyze].
That's it. It's Alan.

"Sorry to have turned up so suddenly Alan."
"Don't worry about it. Please come any time you like."

I stood to greet him, and then he gestured for me to sit down.
An employee brings out two herbal tea's, and places one in front of me and the other in front of the slave trader.
There doesn't seem to be any for Roxanne.
Is that because they think I came to sell her, or just because they know she's a slave?

"Roxanne has been doing quite well, you've sold me a great warrior and you have my gratitude."

For a start, I clarify that I did not come here to sell.
It'll be troublesome if there's some awkward interaction or

atmosphere.

“Thank you for your kind words.”
“Your recommendation was spot on.”
“There’s no problems?”
“None.”

Since the person we are talking about is here, I wouldn’t want to say anything bad anyway.
The slave trader probably understands that.

“That’s great.”
“Since Roxanne has worked out so well, I’ll be thinking about another party member soon.”
“I understand.”
“I was wondering, is it possible to purchase a Master Smith?”

It might be an issue that I’ve exposed my intentions, but it can’t be helped.
I had to ask.
It won’t be possible for me to find out without talking.

“You want a Master Smith?”
“That’s right.”
“Well… it isn’t impossible… but it’s quite… difficult.”

The slave trader answered me while thinking.
It might be difficult since it’s for a specific job.

“I understand.”
“Are you aware that the fusion of monster cards is often a failure?”
“I know.”

“That won’t change, even if the Master Smith is a slave. If it keeps failing, eventually the owner will start suspecting the slave. Even so, there are quite a lot of people such as nobles who want a Master Smith but none of those stories ever end with both of them being happy.”

So there are problems even when working with them directly?
You never know if the slave has stolen the monster card instead.
Well, I can understand the anger if failures continue to happen.

“I see.”
“Dwarves understand this, so before they become a slave they will often change their job to something other than a Master Smith.”
“So there are no slaves that are Master Smiths?”
“Well, it isn’t that there are none, they do exist, but that also makes the price go up.”

So the price goes up because they are rare.
I would be angry as well if I paid a lot and failures kept happening.
It feels like the negatives just keep coming.

They have a bad reputation, so the amount of them decreases.
Since there isn’t many of them, the price goes up.
If it’s cheap they can give up easily, but people are angrier if they specially pay a high price and they don’t succeed.
They vent their anger at the Master Smith slave, the bad reputation spreads, and the amount of Master Smiths decreases even more.

“I don’t think you’d go that far desiring a Master Smith. How about a dwarf who isn’t a Master Smith? Might be useful as a vanguard.”

Looks like it will be hard to buy a Master Smith.
It’s still worth trying though.
I can request a Master Smith, but the chances of finding one are low.

However, since I have the [Party Job Setting] skill it doesn’t have to be that job.
If the dwarf can get the job then it will be fine.

“They make good vanguards because the dwarf race is quite strong.”
“I see.”

Some of this I have already heard from Roxanne.
Just enough to keep up with the conversation.
Can I buy a dwarf slave? I haven’t asked the important stuff yet.
I hesitated about if I should talk about that part with Roxanne.

Dwarves, dragon people, and beast people like Roxanne all seem to be suited to being a vanguard.

So, are humans just powerless?

“However, unfortunately we only have one dwarf here at the moment. I think based on her personality she isn’t cut out to be a fighter.”
“Oh, that’s too bad.”

He referred to her as female, but I can’t jump at just that.
Hearing it’s a female is my weakness.
I need to stay calm.

“I can write a letter to introduce you to other shops. Why not try some to see if they have a good dwarf?”
“You don’t mind if I do that?”
“It’s fine.”
“Even though it’s your competition?”

Don’t you want a customer like me?
Is it because I get things cheaply?
Because of my 30% discount?

“This business doesn’t really lack in customers coming to purchase. What I need is people coming here to sell. We also have our own routes to get stock, all of the Vale region and the southern plains are our trading area. Shops stocked in different regions aren’t really competitors and we help each other out when it’s needed.”
“So that’s how it is.”

Those in this line of work have their own circumstances.

“I’ll introduce you to a business I’m close to in the Imperial Capital, though at the current time they may be low on stock as well.”
“Oh?”
“Spring is the farming season.”

So there’s a high demand at the moment and it’s busy?
Nobody would put up a proper worker for sale while they are busy.
When the farming work is done, then the supply will go up.

Even for the farmers, it’s not good to buy in a hurry when you’re already busy.
It’s necessary to prepare the slaves beforehand.

If they aren't at least that skilled, then getting slaves would be hard.

"Ah, I see."

I worked it out myself and came to my own understanding.
It doesn't matter if I'm wrong.
It doesn't change the fact that the market price is high at the moment because supply is a problem, compared to when business is slow and the price gets cheaper.

"There's a good shop doing business in the Imperial Capital that I'll introduce you to. I think you might be able to find something nice there."
"That would be good."
"Even if they don't have a dwarf, they might still have a good person who can serve as a vanguard."
"Yes, I'll take a look."

I made my request without saying anything odd.
It was well done.
Since this is a business for the slave trader, I would have thought he'd try to convince me to buy something.

"Since you've let me know what you're looking for I can hold onto one for you if I see one."
"I'd appreciate that."

When I was introduced to Roxanne, I mainly saw female slaves.
They didn't show off any talented men.

"They'll end up mostly males though."
"I understand."

There might be no helping it.
Should the forward be an old dude?
Any dwarf would be good, but there's always the chance to refuse.

"Thank you."
"Oh? I'd still like to see your dwarf as well."

After saying that I feel I made a mistake.
I drew attention to the fact I was interested in the female dwarf.

“She just came recently.”
“I see.”
“Even though I say that, her memory is good and she has already learned the Brahim language, but the rest of her education is lacking.”

The slave trader seems slightly flustered.
His response was a bit hurried.
I see. Since he said she hasn’t been fully educated yet, is that a weak point?
I’m not worried since I was able to find out what the quality is like.

Roxanne seems to have learned the Brahim language and manners here too.
A slave who doesn’t learn it is not good.

The slave trader said what he needed to, and then left to prepare.
I let Roxanne sit down, and passed her the herbal tea since I hadn’t touched it.
When I came to pick up Roxanne I thought they might have drugged my drink, but I don’t have that worry anymore.

Judging from the results, the slave traders recommendation was spot on.
He feels like a merchant that can be trusted.

“Do you have any requests for the vanguard?”
“I think that it will be fine if they are to Master’s liking.”

I’m slightly embarrassed as I think about what I like.
After speaking with Roxanne about a variety of things, the slave trader returns.

“I’ll show you the male candidates first. Sorry, but she will have to wait here since the area is for men only.”
“Ok, I understand how things could get if a beautiful woman like Roxanne comes in.”
“….w-well.”
“Roxanne, please wait here.”
“I will.”

The stimulation might be too large if I bring her in front of the male slaves.
They were dropped to the position of slave and then kept locked away in the slave traders establishment. If that happened to me and then a beautiful woman like Roxanne showed up I'd cause a rebellion.

The slave trader guides me to the second floor.
We enter the room.

….Oh.

It's like a classroom here.

Reflexively everyone has a questioning expression.
Some will definitely be suitable for a vanguard.

Scary.
It might be impossible.
Ordering around guys like these would be too difficult.

It feels like I'm being attacked by their glares.
Is it alright to be in here? There won't be a revolt?
I'm glad I didn't bring Roxanne along, though it may have been necessary for a guard.

If they jump at me and I'm quick I can draw the copper sword at my waist.
I'm glad I left it there.
I'm in the castle. [TL Note: 殿中でござる (Denchuu de gozaru = I'm in the castle.) is a reference to historical plays, specifically the 47 ronins. That in the castle there are rules that must be followed, among them drawing weapons is forbidden, so it's a safe place. If broken the culprit must commit suicide, specifically it alludes to where Feudal Lord Asano Naganori assaulted a court official that enrage him by drawing a dagger, because of that Asano was compelled to commit suicide and that brought his 47 samurais to avenge their masters honor http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Forty-seven_Ronin.%5D
Don't lose my mind. I'm in the castle.

After examining them I will escape quickly.
Even though I've felt the pressure of being interviewed, it's the first time I've felt that pressure as an examiner.
If I was threatened with "buy me" then I would start nodding unintentionally.

Some of them aren't candidates, some of them are the shops guards though that doesn't cause me to be more comfortable.
I feel like a detective that's just been surrounded by gangsters.

I've underestimated the experience of owning a slave.
If I had a slave like these I might have problems within just a few days.
Even the person who owns slaves needs talent.

"How are they?"

The slave trader asks me after we leave the room.
I'd like to say they are all shit.

It's impossible.
It's really impossible.
It's definitely impossible.

"I don't think I have enough talent to handle them."

This is truthful more than just being humble.

"If there are any you'd like to speak to on their own, let me know."

He wasn't deterred.
He seems like a person of ability, and isn't worried about anything.

There might have been someone there who looked decent and was worth checking out.
However, in a room full of gangsters lined up it's impossible to pick out one that doesn't seem scary from the crowd.
Even if there is one that isn't scary, there's still problems as a vanguard.
If I picked one that looked fine in front of me, he might also be rebellious.

Should I ignore a useful vanguard?
The road ahead seems rocky.

Chapter 47 - Sherry

“What did you think?”

I, who returned alive after the fearsome classroom was met by Roxanne.
She looks like a goddess.
No. She IS a goddess.
Roxanne is a goddess.

The beautiful, gentle woman. with a soothing voice, who is reliable in a Labyrinth, with pretty dog ears, and big breasts.

“Roxanne, Thank you.”
“Um… yes?”
“It seems that many things are difficult.”

Roxanne doesn’t seem to understand, but that’s fine.
She only needs to know that we won’t be getting a male slave.

After briefly stroking her dog ears I sit on the couch and sip some tea.

“Oh…”
“Huh? Did anyone apart from Roxanne drink from this?”
“No.”
“It’s fine then.”

Drinking after Roxanne isn’t a problem.

The slave trader also returns shortly.

“That might be the extent of the people who are able to handle the Labyrinth at the moment.”
“Really? What kind of prices are they I’m wondering?”
“For people who can handle the Labyrinth, 150,000 nars is the cheapest, but men are mostly 250,000 nars and up.”
“Oh.”

So that’s what the market price is like?

Beauty is more valuable than being able to work in the Labyrinth?
Well, the price of a labor slave is probably based on how much it can earn, whereas a woman has other values.

A knocking sound is heard at the door.

“Enter”
“Preparations are complete.”

The door opens, and the woman who seems to be an employee peers in.
After bowing to the slave dealer, she notices Roxanne and gives a slight nod.

Roxanne also nods.
She seems to be an acquaintance.
Since she belonged to this business it’s natural to know some people.

“Bring her.”
“Ok.”

After the slave dealers order, the woman brings a girl into the room.
It’s a short girl that only reaches to the chest of the woman.
Small.
Her height is under 140cm.

Sherry: 16 year old female, explorer Lv10.

[Analyze] shows she’s 16 years old, the same age as Roxanne.
She’s small because she’s a dwarf?

Even if she’s a dwarf, she doesn’t really look like one.
She has more of a short, still growing sort of feeling.
It’s the sort of appearance that if I’ve seen a dwarf before I would not have noticed.

Her body is fine, and not overweight at all.
She’s small, thin, and lovely.
I don’t really know what dwarf standards are like, and if she’s a regular height.

Still, this isn't a child's body, it's just small.
Her body isn't an hourglass figure, but I think it's fine.
Her hair is black and she gives of an obedient impression.

Even with her black hair she has a bright looking face.
A slightly raised nose with big powerful eyes and a small mouth.
She looks slightly Italian.
If I call her a Japanese person who looks Italian would that describe her?

She is a considerably beautiful girl.
Instead of calling her a beautiful woman, beautiful girl fits better.
If she styled her hair she could pass as a celebrity.

Her hair is thick and gives a slightly strange impression.
It is short, and curls at the shoulders on the right and left side.

"Nice to meet you."

When bowing, her entire hair has an unnatural shake.
What happened?

"Sherry is the only dwarf here at the moment. Sherry, come here."
"Ok."

Sherry goes over and sits next to the slave dealer, on the couch in front of me.
She is a dwarf.

She is a beautiful girl, even from up close.
There isn't the heart racing feeling I had when I saw Roxanne for the first time though.
Why?

Maybe I don't feel the desire since I already have Roxanne?
I already have Roxanne, so I don't need to get worked up.
It's because I have Roxanne.
Even if I don't get this one, I still have Roxanne.

Crap, is that how it is?
This is what the difference in society is like?
The popular guy who doesn't immediately jump on a woman

becomes more popular?
An unpopular guy won't become more popular if his ulterior motives are exposed.

The present me can calmly look at her.
Sherry, even though she doesn't have a woman's charm, is a beautiful girl.
It's wrong to look for seductuous charm, being cute is fine.
After seeing the horrors on the third floor, her feeling of obedience gives a good impression.

"Are you fine with going into the Labyrinth?"
"Yes. When it's possible I'll do it."
"I see."

I asked about it.
She's not worried about fighting in the Labyrinth.
Since she's already Lv10 it's probably safe.
Though, Sherry's arm on the table is quite thin and small.

Why doesn't the slave trader say anything?
He's quietly watching things play out.

"Um, that…."

Sherry hesitated to say something.
Sherry looks at the the slave trader.
The slave trader gives a small nod.

"Yes?"
"I'm an explorer Lv10."
"You have no problems entering the Labyrinth as an explorer?"

I already knew that from [Analyze].

"Um, well…"
"There's a problem?"
"Until a dwarf becomes an explorer Lv10, they have the chance to become a master smith. However, not all dwarves can become one. Generally only those who have a talent in the Labyrinth can become one."

There seems to be a problem.

“In other words, you weren’t able to become one?”
“…yes.”

At my question, Sherry looks down.

If it is a dwarf who has talent then it’s possible to become a master smith at explorer Lv10.
Sherry is explorer Lv10 and not a master smith yet.
So it wasn’t possible for her to become one by explorer Lv10.
To get to that level and not be a master smith means that she doesn’t have talent in the Labyrinth.

Sherry can’t become a master smith.
Having a dwarf as a vanguard isn’t a problem, but I did want a master smith.

However, there might be no chance.
To become a master smith you need talent?
There’s already the limitation of being a dwarf.
Is there no hope?

First, how is it that talent is measured?
There is a condition aside from explorer Lv10 to get the master smith job.
For example, maybe higher than 100 Intellect is required.
No, Sherry seems to be quite smart, I need to consider something a dwarf needs.
Then, maybe it’s 100 strength or more.

Since my bonus points in my character reset skill can be placed into strength, the condition of it being 100 or more is possible.
The conditions could be having 100 strength or more before explorer Lv10.
Roxanne has never mentioned stat points, so the knowledge of stat points doesn’t seem to exist.
So a dwarf who doesn’t reach the required strength by explorer Lv10 will think that it’s just because they don’t have the talent in the Labyrinth.

“Can I ask a question?”
“Yes. Please do.”

Sherry looks up.
Her face is cute.
It would be a shame to decline her just because she doesn’t have the master smith job.

Will her impression of me be hurt if I say something bad?
Her hair looks a little rough.
Perhaps it’s because Roxanne is too beautiful.

How was Roxanne when I first met her?
With Roxanne we wipe our bodies every day before going to sleep, and have used the bath several times, and even with soap yesterday.
Of course there would be a difference.

If Roxanne became more beautiful, Sherry is sure to become more beautiful as well.
Because the base material is quite good.

“If you don’t become a master smith by explorer Lv10, is it impossible? I’m wondering if there are other conditions to becoming one.”

I wouldn’t be sad if I found out there was a condition that isn’t talent.

“Only job changes before explorer Lv10 are accepted in the master smiths guild, though exceptions aren’t entirely unheard of.”
“Is that so?”

Really? Is that how it goes?”
If you are talented you can become a master smith by explorer Lv10, but the possibility of becoming one after that is interesting.

Well, over explorer Lv10 and over 100 strength might be too common.
Then everyone could become a master smith.
The conditions might be more severe.
Even if Sherry doesn’t have the master smith job at the moment, if we meet the requirements the job should be able to be obtained.

Of course, there is always the possibility that the job can't be obtained as well.
How should I estimate the chances?

It also seems difficult to buy a master smith slave.
Though it seems you can buy a former master smith, you can't distinguish one with [Analyze] so they could just pretend to be a former master smith.
If you request a master smith, there will be some risks.

Even if she doesn't obtain master smith after buying her, I do still have room for more party members.
At worst, she's just someone to stay at home and mind the house while we go to the Labyrinth.
The chance that Sherry can become a master smith might mean it's worth taking the risk.

If the master smith job requires 100 strength before explorer Lv10, then it isn't a job we can get later no matter how much strength is increased.
Like this, if you say it's talent by explorer Lv10, then it isn't altogether wrong.

Sherry is explorer Lv10 now.
It's a disadvantage.

"I was one of the strongest people in my village and I can show that in the Labyrinth. Thank you in advance."

Sherry bows.
Strength of 100 doesn't seem to be the condition.

Why is she promoting herself to me?
Is it from the slave traders orders?
I'm suspicious of it.

"Is that enough?"

Was the slave trader reading my reaction?
Is there doubt in my expression?

"Yes."

“Ok.”

When I nod, the slave trader has Sherry withdrawn.
The slave trader also left the room with them.

“Would it be alright?”

Since the two of them have left, I mutter my doubts.
The other female slaves that I saw when I first met Roxanne behaved poorly.
Even the male slaves I just met behaved like that despite my presence, so I’m not really interested in purchasing them.

If I was a slave I don’t think I’d consider trying to promote myself.
Therefore, these are the slaves natural attitudes.
But why did she appeal to me?

“I think that her condition is good.”
“What condition? Ability to enter the Labyrinth?”

With my ability in the Labyrinth, I didn’t really consider asking about it in detail.
The Labyrinth is the only way I know for her to earn her keep.
Well, she could hunt thieves as well if I ordered it.
I should also consider the increasing risk in the Labyrinth as we advance further.

“Well, she spoke about the Labyrinth to promote herself, I was also like that.”

Is that how it was?
There might have been that aspect.
Being able to recognize skilled people is like killing two birds with one stone.

“So, you think the dwarf is promising?”

After asking, I realized it.
The reason the slave trader left is so that I can consult Roxanne about it.
That’s probably how it is.
Well, I don’t mind that.

“Yes, even if she doesn’t know much yet or have talent, she has the resolution needed for training and effort.”
“Yes, that’s true.”

Roxanne’s training would be scary.
I won’t object to it though.
It would give me some peace of mind.
Well, it might only be me thinking of something severe.

“She might not last long, but if the price is low she isn’t a bad choice.”
“She might not last long?”
“She might already be quite old, so you may want to check her age.”
“Oh?”

[Analyze] showed Sherry to be 16 years old.
It is the same age as Roxanne.
What is Roxanne saying?
Do dwarves have a short life span?

“As a dwarf gets older, their ears become thinner, and her ears were considerably thin.”

Roxanne explains this as I look doubtful.
Is it really like that?

The slave trader once told me that different races show their ages differently.
Is the dwarves aging point their ears?
The slave trader also said that there isn’t much difference in life span for different races.

“Ah, I see.”

It might be important to notice if someone is elderly.
I’ve heard something good.

The slave trader returns to the heavy atmosphere.
Didn’t he attempt to eaves drop?
The woman who brought Sherry is also with him.

“May I speak to that woman for a bit? I am indebted to her because

she looked after me when I was here.”

Roxanne lets me know, when she sees the woman.

“Sure, that’s fine.”

The slave trader enters the room and Roxanne leaves.
The slave trader sits down in front of me.

“What did you think.”
“Depending on the price, she might be alright.”
“I see. Sherry is 16 years old, and even though she isn’t a master smith, she has agreed to become a sex slave. She’s a virgin so there is no worry about disease as well.”

The slave trader starts speaking frankly, probably because Roxanne left.
Did he intend for Roxanne to leave for this?
It’s not just me thinking about devious things.

“Is that so?”
“I don’t think you know much about other races Michio? Sherry’s ears are naturally thin, and that’s generally a feature of an aging dwarf. That decreases the price a bit and I think makes her quite affordable.”

It seems he probably did hear the conversation between myself and Roxanne.
If not he probably would have tried to sell her off at a high price.
I am glad that she came along.

“Even though people from other races would consider her ears to be an unrelated matter, she’s still cheap?”
“Actually, for other races a dwarves ears are the only thing they can judge their age by.”
“I see.”

Ah, for a woman that everybody thinks is elderly, society won’t value her at a high price.

“Also, because Sherry is only a first year slave, the amount of tax is cheaper too.”

“A first year slave?”

A regular persons taxes are 30,000 nars, and a slaves taxes are 10,000 nars.
If I became a slave I could pay 10,000 nars tax and then buy myself back and evade 20,000 nars of tax.
To prevent that, only a first year slave pays 10,000 nars in tax, and after that they are 30,000 nars.

Though I’m a freeman and my taxes are 100,000 nars so it would still be a saving of 70,000 nars after the first year.
However, I might not be set back to freeman after buying myself back.
That’s likely I think.

What about Roxanne’s tax?
Roxanne was sold because her family was unable to pay their taxes.
Did the slave trader have to pay 30,000, or 10,000 because she had just been sold?
That may have altered Roxanne’s price.

“I understand.”
“Yeah, so because of her ears her price isn’t that high, just around 300,000 nars, but her education isn’t finished either so I’ll decrease it by another 30,000 nars. How does 270,000 nars sound?”

The slave trader presents a price.
It’s a massive difference compared to Roxanne’s.
It’s still higher than a male slave though, because it’s a young woman?
Well, it’s probably still cheaper than the regular market price.

Roxanne’s age may have been an unfair advantage.
This time that isn’t happening.
If it’s cheap, I’ll buy it, those were my conditions.

“Hmmmm….”
“Well… 260,000, no 250,000… that’s the best I can do.”

As I think about it, he cuts the price.
The slave trader really wants to push to sell?

Is it because I don’t care about the ears?

“Um?”
“Yes?”

250,000 nars seems to be the lowest.
It won’t go any lower?
There’s no helping it.

“When I bought Roxanne, she had some cloths included.”
“Those? They were imitation maid cloths, and they really pleased a lot of customers.”

Maid’s wear maid cloths.
They are obviously for women who do housework in upper class houses.

“Is there any?”
“If I add cloths it’s an additional 4,000 nars, and if I add that on and consider this a special service the price comes to 177,800 nars.”

Since I bought something extra, the 30% discount became effective.
This completes the deal.

Chapter 48 - Cutie

I took out 14 gold coins, and 378 silver coins and paid for Sherry.
I don't have much money left now.
100 silver coins equals a gold coin, but it's necessary to pay the price.
A gold coin is 10,000 nars, and quite expensive.

I count out the money and the slave trader leaves. Roxanne comes back instead.

"I've decided to take her."
"Really? That's good then."

For a brief moment Roxanne's expression becomes cloudy.
Did I notice because I'm feeling guilty?
Or am I hoping she's jealous?

Even though Roxanne's expression seems to darken, on the surface she is welcoming it.

It's because of Roxanne I had this chance.

Does she think she can't object because she's a slave?
I don't think I'd mind if she showed her displeasure a bit.
To enter the Labyrinth we need to increase our war potential.
Would it be fine if I bought a man? Well, that would cause other problems.

"I'll still be relying on you in the future Roxanne."
"Yes Master. Please do."

Roxanne replied with a smile.
Maybe I shouldn't have bought Sherry.
Well, I've paid a lot of money and it's done now.

"Sorry to have kept you waiting. Come here Sherry."

After leaving with the money, the slave trader returned to the room.
Sherry is right behind him.

Sherry bows.

“Please look after me.”
“I’ll be in your care.”
“I am the number one slave Roxanne. Please look after me.”

Roxanne seems to have reached the rank of number one slave.
It’s true that I bought her first though.

Does this need to be said?
The number one slave? The top seat?
I don’t know.

“You were a slave after all? I thought you were his young wife.”

Sherry is surprised at Roxanne’s remark.

“Young wife. That isn’t the case.”

Roxanne. I didn’t want you to deny that so flatly.

“I was mistaken because your cloths are so nice, you look very health, and your skin has such a lovely complexion.”
“It’s because Master is a gentle, wonderful person. You won’t have to worry about food, clothing or shelter.”

While the two slaves are talking, I lift my left hand.
Sherry also lifts her left hand.
The slave trader recites an incantation and the intelligence cards appear.

“The contract is completed. Please confirm her age.”

Confirm that she’s young even though she has thin ears.
Since there is an intelligence card the age can’t be falsified?
Perhaps there are methods somehow.

Sherry. 16 year old female. Explorer. First year slave. Owner: Kaga Michio.

I already knew she was 16 because of [Analyze].
Sherry’s ears really are thin, but that doesn’t worry me.
It’s convenient because she was cheap thanks to those ears.

Kaga Michio. 17 year old male. Explorer. Freeman. Owner of slaves: Roxanne, Sherry.

The number of slaves owned has increased on my intelligence card.
Is there a limit to the amount of slaves I can own? Wouldn't there be a problem displaying it if the number of slaves keeps increasing?

"I've confirmed it."
"It takes time to have the cloths made. Please come and pick them up in 10 days."

The same with Roxanne, we received more details afterwards.
A receipt was completed, and we left the business.
Once outside, Sherry was invited to the party, and [Plating] was cast.

Explorer Lv10, Villager Lv3, Herbalist Lv1.

Even though I could see her jobs because of [Party Job Settings], master smith was not there.
There isn't many jobs, is it because she's still Villager Lv3?
Warrior, Swordsman & Merchant become available at Lv5. Perhaps master smith is at Lv5 too?
It's admirable that she doesn't have thief.

Sherry doesn't have anything except the tunic and pants she is wearing.
Roxanne just had a case of clothing as well.

"I'll stop by the explorers guild."
"Certainly."
"C-Certainly."

On the way back we stopped at Vale's explorers guild and bought one black magic crystal.
We bought one this morning in Quratar's explorers guild as a replacement for the yellow one we sold.
Now that I have another slave I needed an extra though.

I have not found any black crystals in the labyrinth since the one I tested fusing on.
It feels like I wasted it.

My judgement is bad at times.

“After that we’ll go to the adventurer’s guild, and then should we return straight to the house?”
“Certainly.”
“Um, yes?”

Sherry seemed a bit hesitant, but walked up right next to me.

“Is something wrong?”
“Um, is there also an adventurer that is a party member?”
“No, why do you ask?”
“Because of the way you said we’d return to the house.”

Then Sherry went back and chatted to Roxanne.
There’s the possibility of getting home from the wall in the adventurer’s guild using the adventurers skill [Field walk].
Since Sherry has seen my intelligence card she knows I’m an explorer.
Did she think there was something strange?

“Don’t worry, you’ll understand soon enough.”

Oh. Roxanne stopped trying to explain it.
I’m uncomfortable about the explanation.
Is it because it’s a secret?

“What? Oh, um?…”

As expected, when [Warp] is used from the adventurers guild to get home Sherry gives a puzzled look.

“Lets sit down. I’m going shopping for some things we’ll need.”

I decided not to explain it.
I sit on the dining room chair.

“It’s not that late yet.”
“I think I’ll go to the effort of preparing the bath today.”
“Yes, that’s wonderful.”

Roxanne had sat down in the next seat, and her whole face lit up.
Roxanne seems to like the bath too.

Her dog ears are more beautiful when she's smiling.
I pat them without thinking.

"Um. Is it possible that you have multiple jobs? I've only heard stories about that from Myths and Legends."

Sherry interrupts.
Such a legend exists?

I've heard something nice.
If I had the adventurers job I could use [Field walk] while still showing as explorer on my intelligence card.
She has a good head on her shoulders to work it out from that.

"Sadly I don't have the adventurers job. That was a magic called [Warp]."
"Is that time & space magic?"
"Time & space magic?"

I return the question like a parrot.
Is there space magic?

"Well, not many know it but when [Field walk] is used it doesn't just effect the location but time as well, so it's actually a time and space magic."
"There's a time difference?"
"The time difference, sometimes you move to a location that is night time when the starting location was daytime. If I leave in early morning, sometimes I'll end up somewhere that is still night. [Field walk] is a magic that effects time like this."

Well, it is a time difference.
Is it the sort of thing that you'll notice if you travel to the same places often, but you won't understand?

"Sit down for now."
"It's fine to sit?"

Roxanne who is next to me at the six person table speaks to Sherry in a quiet voice.
I chose the six person table because a party has a maximum size of six people.

“Yes, please sit next to Master.”

The chairs are in groups of three, and I’m in the central chair.
A beautiful woman is sitting on either side of me. A flower in each hand.
Roxanne understands things well.

“Well, thank you then.”
“This planet. Do you know the theory of a round earth?”

I asked.
It would explain the difference in time from one area to the next.
The circular earth theory has been around for a considerably long time on earth.
The positions of the stars move as well if you travel north.

Time and space magic. Sherry might be smart.
For such a person it might be necessary to show off how smart the master is as well.
If I properly explain the time difference caused by the circular planet with the angle of the sun then I might get respected a bit.

It would be a good feeling to be respected by a cute girl like Sherry.
Also, it might be useful for smoothly progressing our life here.
Even though it’s not something I discovered, it’s from the scientists of earths past.
I wish to express my thanks to the effort of my ancestors.

“I have heard the story that there was a great old scholar who insisted it was so, but the people who made the story called him a useless fool.”
“What is the basis for it being a silly theory?”
“If the earth was round, a person on the other side would fall off.”

Well.
So that’s how it is.
I guess they’d think that, if they didn’t know about gravity.

“Well, I don’t think it’s a time and space magic, but I have some magics that I use that you must keep a secret.”
“I will.”

Lets give up on explaining.
I don't know how to properly explain gravity.
Although I brought it up with the intention of showing off my knowledge I think I'd just end up sounding foolish.
It seems that I need to keep up constant effort.
"So there is legends of people with multiple jobs?"
"There are legends such people existed in the past."
"Well, you can think of me like that."
"Um…?"
"So, for today what do I need to buy, a rucksack, a wooden bucket, some equipment?

I forcibly stopped the explanation and switched to speaking with Roxanne.
Roxanne seemed surprised at my remarks, but doesn't falter.
She's used to surprises from me by now.

"Well, for today and tomorrow the cloths provided by the slave traders business are enough, but please buy new underwear."
"I understand, I'll visit a clothing store."
"Yes."

There's a good clothing store on the other side of Quratar's labyrinth that I can go to.

"Um. Mine aren't dirty yet so you don't need to trouble yourself."
"I'm buying them. Also, what would you like for a weapon?"

Well, she'll need some underwear to wear tomorrow.

"Ah. Thank you. I can use a hammer if I'm a vanguard, or a spear if I'm in mid range. I'm good with a spear but a spear can't be used by a vanguard. The hammer is better to avoid hitting allies because it's powerful and easy to use."

Since the spear is long it may be difficult to use in the narrow labyrinth.

"For the spear, do you use it from behind?"
"Yes, or thrusting it into the demon between the vanguards. It's slow to use but the power is quite strong."

It doesn't seem like a bad idea to use the spear as well.
However, the current situation will require her to be a vanguard.

"In Master's party, Master annihilates the enemy with his magic while I keep the demon's in check. It would be good for you to use a hammer and become a vanguard while Master is the fire power."

Roxanne has the same opinion as me.

"What? Magic?"
"Yes."
"It's possible?"

Sherry alternately looks between Roxanne and me.

"Yes."
"Yes."
"Oh…"
"Keep it a secret though."

Sherry looks confused, but I force her agreement.

"Ok. So… it really is multiple jobs?"
"Yes. Don't worry about it. Have you defeated demons with a hammer?"

That could be the problem.
Monk was acquired from defeating demons bare handed, and swordsman might have been because I use a sword. Perhaps defeating demons with a hammer is a condition for master smith?
It really feels like a master smith should use a hammer.

"No, I have not."
"Well, if your fine with it I'll get you a hammer to use."

We'll try that out first.

"Ah, yes."

Sherry nodded while slightly tilting her head.
Is the missing condition that she hasn't defeated a demon with a hammer?
There is a chance it's related.

A small chance.

“I’ll get a hammer. Do dwarves often use hammers?”
“There are people who use other weapons but it’s quite common, and I’ve used one a little.”

For a dwarf with talent, a demon is usually defeated with a hammer.
It will be enough to try it.

“Has Roxanne used one?”
“No, It’s quite heavy and my speed would be reduced by it.”

Right, with a heavy hammer Roxanne’s ability to dodge would decrease.
Movement with a light sword.
Actually, the scimitar isn’t really that light.

“Do you hold the hammer with both hands?”
“Yes. Some people just use one hand, but power goes up if you use two.”

I confirmed it with Sherry.
She doesn’t need a shield.

“I don’t have much money left for equipment, so please bear with some cheap equipment for now.”
“It’s alright.”
“Also, do you know about empty slots on equipment?”

I casually asked.

“A skill slot?”
“You know about it?”
“A great old scholar had a theory that equipment has slots, and a skill won’t fuse to it from a monster card if there isn’t one.”

I asked, and there seems to be such a theory.
I’ve hit the nail on the head?

“Knowing the same thing as a great scholar. Master is very wise.”
“Ah, yes, the theory about the round earth, and… the dwarf skill slot… even only a small number of dwarves know about it.”

The old scholar was great.
If there is a person saying the same thing then the idea that a monster card will fuse with an empty slot seems to be correct.

“That theory, is it no good?”
“Nobody knows because nobody can see the skill slots.”

I can see them with [Analyze].

“There’s no way to check?”

Roxanne asks about it.
The theory is easy to check.
You just have to fuse monster cards with equipment many times.
If you find a piece of gear that the fusion fails on every single time then the theory is proven. After that, if you find a bit of gear that fails even once you wouldn’t try it again.

Is that all?
They should be able to verify it.

“If anything, there are more people who don’t believe it.”
“So it’s not being completely denied?”
“When fusion fails, the monster card is lost, and the equipment returns to being it’s materials. Even though the piece of equipment can be re-made, the people who believe in the skill slot theory don’t believe it becomes the same piece of gear.”

Does the equipment break as well when it fails?
Then verifying it is impossible.
Aside from [Analyze], there is no change to the appearance if an item has a skill slot or not.
The skill slot theory still seems to be correct though.

“What do you think Sherry?”
“The skill slot theory seems a little far fetched. It blames this and that for failure, but the argument against it doesn’t hold any weight either.

So Sherry disagrees?
I understand what she’s saying though.
There’s no way to disprove it.

There’s no way to get any results.

To think of such a thing.
Sherry seems to be quite smart.

“Is that so? You seemed to know a lot about it.”
“Sorry. I was interested so I asked someone that was well informed.”

How smart and knowledgeable she is might make her useful.

Chapter 49 - Search

My newest slave, Sherry, seems to be quite smart.
She might be useful for me since I don't know anything about this world.

"I'm sorry. My mother always got angry if I didn't know something."

Sherry lowers her head.

"It's not bad."
"It's been said that if you try to learn too much you'll bring ruin upon yourself."
"Oh, really, hmm."

I understand an idea like that.
It's about "knowing your place".
Slavery is common in this world.

"Master also does experiments to learn things, so I think it's good."
"Really?"

Roxanne, you're not harbouring a grudge?
You're smiling, but you might be hiding it.

"Well, we don't over-do it."
"Yes."

Well, knowing about it isn't bad, but it could be bad if too much was said.
That it's possible to use magic, and not use the incantation.
That party members jobs can be changed.
Oh, maybe that should be explained.

"Oh, do you have anything in your item box Sherry?"
"No, nothing."

After confirming it, I changed Sherry's job to villager Lv3.
If Sherry's explorer job becomes Lv11, it might be bad.

“Hmmm, villager Lv3 is a bit low.”
“What?”

Sherry looks at me with eyes of suspicion.
Did I make things awkward?

“…”

When I look at Roxanne she looks like a person who is slightly troubled.
Is that so?
Neither of them are aware of my knowledge of party job levels.

It’s one of those times where I’d say something hard to understand to Roxanne.
Roxanne seems a little cold right now.

“Well, do you know anything about the hero job?”

There’s no helping it, so I ask Sherry a question.

“It’s a legendary job that the first emperor was supposed to have.”
“There’s a legend?”
“Yes. There’s also people who say that such a job doesn’t exist as well, and there’s no guild for it either.”

Hero seems to be quite rare.

“So, you’d need to find someone with that job to prove that it exists?”
“Since it was supposed to be the job of the founding emperor, if someone had that job they might be accused of rebellion.”

What?

Bad. So that’s how it is?
I don’t want to think of that possibility.
I think it’s real that the first emperor had the job.

“I see. So, I’m off to go shopping.”
“Ok.”

It’s hard to talk about it more than this, so I decide to run away.

Roxanne has a knowing expression, so she probably realises.

“After shopping, I’ll have dinner with Sherry & Roxanne, and then I’ll prepare the bath. Can you cook anything Sherry?”
“Yes, I can cook a little.”
“Ok.”

Because Sherry said she can cook, I look to Roxanne and give a nod.
It carries a variety of meanings.

“Undestood.”
“Um, that thing, the bath, it’s THAT kind of bath?”
“I’m not sure what you can’t understand, it’s just a bath.”

Are there other kinds of baths? When I think about it, there are.
Sauna, hot spring, public bath.

“I see.”
“Sherry, just wait with Roxanne for a bit and you’ll see.”

I stand up to run away.
I leave the two alone, and leave through the wall.

“I’ve heard that only royalty and nobles take baths, Is he an amazing person?”

As I use [Warp], I hear Sherry speaking to Roxanne.

“See you later, Master.”
“See you later.”

The two of them bowed, and I’m not sure if Roxanne gave an answer.
I warped to the adventurer’s guild, and then headed to the armor shop.

In the armor shop I buy a leather jacket, a leather hat, and leather shoes.
All of them have empty skill slots.
It takes a bit of time, even if I had brought Roxanne to help.

Leather equipment is pretty cheap in price.

For the hands, we still have spare leather mittens.

I return to the house once.

“Welcome back Master.”
“Welcome back.”
“Leather shoes for Roxanne, and Roxanne you can pass the sandals to Sherry.”

I take off the Leather shoes that I’m wearing and give them to Roxanne.
I will wear the new ones I just bought.

Sherry is barefoot, like Roxanne was when I bought her.
If I had known I could have prepared shoes beforehand.

“Yes Master, Thank you.”
“Do you need a leather jacket Sherry? If not you could try the leather armor.”

I pull the leather jacket from my item box.
The leather jacket is more expensive than the leather armor, so normally I’d pass the leather armor to Sherry.

“Well, my breasts are a bit small…”

Sherry looks a bit sad.
I didn’t mean to have that kind of meaning.
This is not sexual harrassment.
This is definately not sexual harassment.

Sherry’s breasts aren’t really that small.
Well, that’s how it seems through her cloths.
They’ll be a pleasure for me.
Washing them in the bathroom, and doing this and that in the bedroom.

When we take off her cloths, are they really that small?

For a woman with breasts as big as Roxanne’s, her breasts will be too big for the leather armor.
Thus, offering the leather armor is equal to saying she’s flat chested.

“Sorry, I didn’t have that kind of meaning.”
“It’s ok, I know they are small.”
“No, they are fine to look at, like decorations.”

Roxanne tries to comfort her.
Like decorations. An erotic person like me can’t understand that.

It got quiet, and I passed the leather jacket to Sherry.
I can understand her feelings.
Roxanne, I think your comforting may have had the opposite effect.
I wait for Sherry to try on the shoes, and then take them both to the weapons shop.

“This is a hammer.”

Sherry had recovered, and called me over to the corner of the weapon store.
The hammers, morning stars & maces were kept there.
There was quite a range of sizes.

“There is a variety.”
“The first cheap one will be fine.”

Sherry pointed towards a club.
A club?

Club hammer.

It seems to be classified as a hammer.
It doesn’t have the feeling of a hammer, isn’t it different?
I find one with an empty skill slot and pass it to Sherry.

“This one looks sturdy.”
“Thank you.”

I need to buy more than one item for the discount.
I just wanted the hammer, is there anything else I need?
Is there an upgrade for my cane or Roxanne’s scimitar?
Maybe I should buy a spear?

With that thought, it occurs to me there might be a job from defeating an enemy with a spear.

Lancer, or perhaps Phalanx?

I find a copper spear with an empty skill slot.

I ask the storekeeper, and he says the copper spear is an affordable item for beginners.
The shaft is made from wood, even though it's a copper spear.
Maybe the blade point is made of copper.

"Is the hammer alright?"
"Yes. Thank you very much."

It's the type of club Sherry chose.
I pass the spear and club to the storekeeper to buy them.
840 nars in total. The price of the copper spear seems a little high.

"There you go."
"Thank you."

As I pass Sherry the club I get a surprise.
Her eyes are sparkling.

"Ah, um, it's not a big deal."
"Thank you very much."

Isn't it something trivial?

"Isn't it just something small?"
"It's not, because a slave is normally never allowed to carry around weapons."

Roxanne teaches me quietly.
So that's it?
Looking at Sherry's reaction, it's easy to imagine.
Roxanne has always had the scimitar at her waist though.

After that we buy some socks and another pair of the pumpkin colored underpants at the clothing store, and then a rucksack, a small wooden bucket, and some toothpicks at the general store.
I then buy some cooking ingredients and return to the house.
It was easy since we warped straight from the adventurers guild to the house.

“Make dinner while I prepare the bath.”
“Certainly.”
“Don’t I need to help you with the bath?”

Sherry asks.

“It’s quite hot and difficult.”

It helps to have someone moving the hot water from the jar to the bath tub, but it isn’t necessary.
The temperature of the bathroom becomes hot and hard to bear.
To work in the bathroom, it’s fine to just have one person doing it.
My magic is needed to boil the water, so it has to be me.

Sherry doesn’t seem to understand as I head for the bathroom.
Even though it’s troublesome, it isn’t bad if I think about the result.
Be troubled now, and enjoy it later.
A fine person must be like that.

“We can eat all this?”

In the middle of the job, my MP has decreased so I head to the kitchen and hear Sherry & Roxanne.

“Yes, Sherry. Eat as much as you want without holding back.”
“But this is his food?”
“We are making it for three people.”
“Three people?”

There seems to be a problem with the quantity of food.
Are dwarves gluttonous?

“Yes.”
“But the meat bought is such good quality, and the highest quality bread was bought. I thought we’d just be getting leftovers?”

What does Sherry mean?
I can’t hear the response, so I call out and interrupt it.

“Roxanne, can you do the usual thing?”
“Yes Master.”

Roxanne comes and I pass her the leather gloves and wooden

shield.
I put the leather hat on her head.
Of course I pat her dog ears as I do it.

“I’m looking forward to the delicious food. Thank you.”

Sherry comes over.
Well, it will depend on your cooking if it’s delicious.

“We are going to the Labyrinth, do you want to come as well Sherry?”
“To the Labyrinth?”
“You don’t have to. If you need to stay and tend to the cooking then it’s alright not to come.”
“It will be fine for a while, can I come?”

Sherry wants to come, so I pass her the leather mittens.
I cover Sherry’s head with a leather hat.

“Amazing.”

Sherry’s hair is very thick.
Or should I say dense?
I’ve been interested since I first saw it.

“It’s because dwarves have a lot of hair.”
“Is that so?”
“Dwarven men get beards, but dwarven females don’t so instead they get a large amount of hair on their head.”
“I see.”

There’s still some distance betweeen the hat and her scalp.
It seems like it would absorb shock even without a helmet.
When moving the hat, the entire hair shakes.
Even though it isn’t curly, it remind me of an afro.

“I cut it regularly, but it grows right back.”

I get the feeling that dwarves are a race who are harassed because of their hair.

“Shall we go?”

I prepare my equipment, and pull out Durandal.
We go to the fifth floor of Vale's labyrinth.

We are on the fifth floor because Durandal can kill everything in a single blow here.
Sherry would get pulled into the fight if it was dragged out.
I should gradually get her used to it instead of taking her straight to the seventh floor.

Also, killing things in one blow is cooler.
I want to show off to our new party member, Sherry.
A beautiful girl.
My perverted thoughts get the best of me.

"Let's see, umm."
"This way."

Roxanne points the way towards a demon.
Sherry looks puzzled, probably because it wouldn't be possible to get here with [Field walk].

"I've heard that people from the wolf tribe can smell demons, can you do that Roxanne?"
"Yes."
"That's amazing."

Roxanne shows off her cool side before I do.
Well, there's no helping it.

"There."

After moving for a while we come across the demon.
It's actually two cheep sheep that Roxanne found.

"Ah. Really. So quick. As expected."

I understand the feeling.
Sherry was an explorer Lv10, so it's likely that she's been in the Labyrinth.

When Roxanne isn't around I also wander endlessly around the Labyrinth.

I don’t encounter things often.
It might even take longer than 10 minutes.

I am really thankful for Roxanne.
After hearing Sherry’s words, my gratitude for Roxanne is renewed.

“Thank you Roxanne. Let’s go.”
“Yes.”

We stand side by side, and advance.
I swing my sword at the first demon to come.
Durandal is swung down on it’s shoulder.
The sheep collapses.

Look at my swordplay.
I am cool.
My too cool display.

I also pierce the side of the cheep sheep that Roxanne is keeping busy.
A single blow.
The demon collapses, becomes smoke, and dissapears.

“Great! Amazing!”

It probably is.

“How did you evade it so magnificently?”

Damn.
It seems Roxanne stole the show with her dodging while I was fighting.

Chapter 50 - Human

“If you carefully watch the demon you can understand how it’s going to move, so you only need to move your body a little.”

Roxanne gives Sherry a lecture about evasive action.
It’s difficult to understand.
Being taught by Roxanne isn’t a bad thing however.
At first I was the only one being taught by Roxanne’s explanations.

I notice that Sherry is making a slightly troubled face.
Like she wants to escape the lecture.
Well, I can understand that feeling.

“Which way should we head next?”
“Ah, yes, this way.”

I decided to help her out.

Roxanne seems to be abnormal.
I had wondered if all the people of this world had such amazing battle ability, but that doesn’t seem to be the case.
It’s nice.

Sherry is a sensible person. She’s a regular person.
She’s a kindred spirit.
Sherry and I exchange a glance.

“It’s just been the two of us in the Labyrinth until now.”
“It must have been hard.”

Without anyone saying so, I felt it was necessary to start a conversation.
I feel like a guy who understands gazes now.
Sherry and my feelings are united as one.

After that we keep hunting to recover my MP.
Is that enough of a hunt yet?

“Shall we head back?”

We returned to the house using [Warp].

“We used [Warp] magic to enter the Labyrinth?”

When we return to the house, Sherry approaches me with a question.
Crap.
The person with common sense is here.

Sherry’s eyes are sparkling.
It doesn’t feel forceful since she’s so short.
It’s rather cute.
Those eyes make me forget it would be bad to answer too many questions.

“That’s right.”
“But, isn’t there an incantation?”
“Well, there might be one.”

That reminds me that I’ve only ever use [Warp] with [Incantation Omission].
When I used it in the adventurers guild I recited my superficial knowledge of the [Field walk] incantation.
It’s possible that if I remove the [Incantation Omission] skill that there will be an incantation for [Warp].

“It didn’t seem like you recited anything beforehand.”
“Master can use magic even without an incantation.”
“Really?”
“Really.”

Roxanne gives me a helping hand.

“How it works, even though I’m doing it I can’t explain it.”
“I understand.”

You can understand that it can’t be understood.
Sherry is quite smart.
I don’t understand why it’s possible at all.

Why can you breathe? How do you move your hands and feet? I’m not a biologist so it would be hard to explain.

If I asked a fish in the sea why it didn't drown I'd be likely to embarrass it.
A fish can swim, so it's possible to swim. A bird can fly, so it's possible to fly.
Sherry murmurs "why" and starts thinking about it on her own.

"Also, you killed everything in a single blow, you must be strong."
"Ah, yes."

I did my best to show off, but it doesn't seem to have made much of an impression.
Well, strength is necessary to earn money in the Labyrinth, so when you see that I can buy two slaves you probably already realize that I'm strong.
I think you're quite smart.

"May I know what level you are?"
"I'm explorer Lv33."

It just went up to Lv33.
The pace of improvement has slowed down lately.
It seems quite serious when my level goes up.

"What?"

When I answer, Roxanne raises a boisterous voice from the side.

"What?"
"Master was Lv27"
"Well, I was then."

That reminds me, I may have been Lv27 when Roxanne asked me.

"Then."
"It goes up regularly."
"Goes up."

It might have been about 20 days ago that I told Roxanne.
Since my experience increases 100 times faster than a regular person it can't be helped.
Even Roxanne has gone up ten or more levels since the start.

“Can a demon be killed in a single blow by a Lv33 explorer? Is it the attack power of the sword?”

Sherry seems to be watching everything.
She feels like an enemy watching Durandal.

“The level of this sword… is a secret.”

I’ll escape to the bathroom.
Sherry nods slightly as I run away.

“Master, we have hot coals.”

After a while, two people came to the bathroom with a stick.
This isn’t the pursuit I was worried about.
It’s true that I was pursued, but it’s not for answers.

“Oh, can Sherry make a fire?”

Usually a blacksmith will use fire.
If you don’t use magic, making a fire in this world without matches might be difficult.
The master smith job may require you to be able to make a fire, well it’s a possibility.

“Yes, I can.”

Well, it was easily checked.
It seems to be wrong.
We could try melting metal later.

What?
Roxanne is looking at me with a delicate expression.
Is it because I’m asking Sherry, and not her?

Not that. It’s not that, Roxanne.
This is a misunderstanding.

“I will always make fire when Roxanne needs it.”
“Yes, Master.”

I used [Fireball] to set fire to a branch, and passed it to Roxanne.
Roxanne smiled approvingly.

I'm not really sure what just happened myself.
I'm so tired.

To prepare the bath we entered the Labyrinth several times after that.
Sherry watched the fire, and Roxanne and I hunted on the seventh floor of Vale's Labyrinth.

"Why do you go to the Labyrinth?"

Sherry asks a lot of questions.

"It's quite tiring to prepare the bath so it's to relieve stress."

Roxanne gave a strange answer.
Is that how Roxanne see's me?
It might be my fault for not explaining it.

"The purpose is to recover the MP I've spent conjuring magic."
"Does the sword have a MP recovery skill?
"It has MP absorption."
"MP absorption…"

Sherry stares at Durandal.

"You've heard of it?"
"Ah, yes. MP absorption is created from combining the monster card from the Kobald with the monster card from an insectivorous scissor type plant. It's a very valuable skill."

I don't understand the whole lot, but it's as expected of a dwarf.
She seems to know things related to the master smith well.

"Do you know what a rabbit's monster card becomes?"
"It's an [incantation delay] when fused with a weapon."
"Oh, that's good to know. It may come in useful."

This is good.
This saves me using a valuable item as an experiment.
We won't need to waste time checking it.

"Thank you."
"Also, is [incantation delay] different to [incantation interruption]?"

Durandal has [incantation interruption].

“[Incantation delay] delay’s the completion of an incantation. [Incantation interruption] cancels the incantation while it’s in progress. If you fuse the rabbit’s monster card with the kobold’s monster card it becomes [Incantation interruption].
“So [Incantation delay] delays it, and [Incantation interruption] cancels it?”

I don’t really understand the difference.

“Is [Incantation interruption] the better skill?”

Roxanne asks it plainly.
Even I’m not sure.

“Yes. But if all members of a party surround a demon while using [Incantation delay] weapons, they can probably defeat it before the incantation ends.”

So if the combined effects of [Incantation delay] are more than a demon’s incantation casting speed then the demon might never complete it’s incantation.
Even if the damage done isn’t much it all adds up eventually.
It’s like a zerg attack.

“Other actions cannot be done while chanting an incantation.”
“Really? So [incantation delay] is quite good.”

Roxanne’s statement is worth thinking about.
When cancelling an incantation with [incantation interruption] an attack normally follows up afterwards.
If the incantation is delayed instead of cancelled then there won’t be an attack.
If you keep delaying it then the attack will never happen.

It’s possible that [incantation delay] is the stronger of the two.

“Keep in mind that demons aren’t always on their own, and occasionally a demon will stop it’s incantation on it’s own. It’s also quite difficult to get a weapon with incantation delay for every party member. It’s best to consider other options. This is a good strategy

against bosses on lower floors, but [incantation interruption] that can cancel moves becomes the better of the two as you work your way up."
"I see. So [Incantation interruption] is a good skill.

Roxanne nods.
So it's not as good as it seemed.
It's mainly good for bosses on lower floors.

"So it's bad if we only have the rabbit monster's card if we want the skill [Incantation interruption]?
"You need the monster card from the kobold too. The kobolds monster card is special and has a function that strengthens the skill of the monster card it is fused with."

I thought the kobold was like an annoying insect monster with weak, cheap drops, but it had an advantage like this?

"So the monster card of the kobold? It might be good to hunt some kobolds."
"Um, do you happen to have the rabbit monsters card?"
"Ah. Yes."
"We got it this morning."

Roxanne confirms it.
I exchange a glance, and nod.

"You probably know already, but weapons with skills and monster cards are auctioned off in Quratar's merchants guild. You can sell off your monster card there too."

This news is new to me of course.

"…Roxanne, did you know this?"
"Um. I have heard a rumor."

Roxanne and I probably look a little less cool to Sherry now.

"I'm from a far off country. Anything you can teach me is welcome."
"Sure."

Now my good impression has decreased a bit.

It can't be helped when it comes to things I don't know.

"Can you buy the kobolds monster card at the auction?"
"It's possible. Does that mean you have connections to a master smith?"

Sherry is the connection.
I'll keep that quiet for now.

"Yes. Thank you for the explanation Sherry, I've learned a lot. Your knowledge is quite useful Sherry."
"No… I'm not that great."
"Please keep me informed in the future as well."
"Ah, Thank you."

I praised Sherry, then returned to the Labyrinth.
In the labyrinth I make sure to remember to praise Roxanne when she finds a demon so she knows she is still useful.
I have to be careful in various ways.
Two slaves seems to be more difficult than I thought.

After returning from the labyrinth I create hot water several times, then finally the bath is ready.
I float a lemon on it, and then go out.

"Thank you very much."

Roxanne passes me a towel.
I wipe away my sweat.

"Thank you."
"The meal is ready."
"Shall we eat?"

In the dining room, the dishes are layed up on the table.
Judging from the position of the plates, Sherry seems to be next to Roxanne.

"I've made the dwarven dish borscht."

Sherry says.
She says it's borscht, but is it a close translation?

It might be a dish similar to borscht.

“It looks good.”
“I hope it meets your tastes.”

There is a red soup in the center of the table.
Dwarves seem to have their own cuisine in this world.

When I sit, Roxanne sits in front of me.
She thinks that we should use the space on the table a little more.

“Your sitting there?”
“It’s the best seat.”

Is it a slave and master thing?
I’m not sure.

“Sit down Sherry.”
“Um, am I allowed to sit?”
“Would you prefer to eat while standing?”
“I’m allowed to eat?”

What is she saying?

“Master likes company for his meals. Master, it’s normally very rare for a slave to eat the same meal with their Master.”

I let Roxanne explain, and Sherry sits down.
It’s not a problem if it’s my preference.

I take the borscht from the center of the table without anyone protesting.
Roxanne taught me this.
It’s the Master’s job to serve soup.

I don’t understand why, but it isn’t a big deal.
When in Rome, do as the Romans do.

First of all I fill a plate for myself..
This is what Roxanne told me.
Next, I’ll fill a plate for Sherry.
I can feel Roxanne’s eyes on me, so I put the plate in front of Roxanne instead.

“Here you go.”
“Thank you, Master.”

It’s the dwarven dish that Sherry made, so I’m looking forward to eating it.
Last, I place a dish in front of Sherry.
It looks like she had Roxanne’s help with the stir-frying of the mean and vegetables, and with the bread.
I’m not sure though.

“Let’s dig in.”

First of all, the borscht.
Mmmm.
It’s a good taste, but a bit sweet.

It has a country style feeling.
The ingredients are cut quite chunkily.
If I cut it finely maybe it would be like minestrone.

“It’s delicious.”
“Thank you.”

“Quite good. That reminds me, the wolf tribe have the beast soldier job, and the dwarves have the master smith job. Do the humans have a race specific job?”

I try to start a conversation.
There’s also the hotel job that the person in Vale’s inn had which might have been a racial job for his species.
It feels unnatural that only humans don’t have one.

Is Hero a racial job possibly?
I think it’s too strong for that to be the case.

“Oh…”
“Um, oh…”

Their reactions are bad.
Did I say something odd?

“I think it would be good to be loved by Master.”

“I am ready also.”

What are they talking about?
I was asking about a job.

“What?”
“The humans seem to be a race with an extremely large sex drive.”

Sherry explains.
I think I’ve heard something like this.
Humans will have all kinds of sex. Beastiality, homosexual sex, sex with minors, rape, incest, even if there is no chance of reproduction from it they’ll still do everything.
Humans have an instinct to do anything.

The humans in this world seem to cause havoc too.
War and destruction is in our nature.

“Is that so?”
“Since it’s such a race, the have the job of Sex Maniac that they get when immersed in their desires. It’s a human specific job.”

The Sex Maniac job.
Immersed in sexual desire.
Human.

Credits

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